



# EfM Matters

June 2023

## EfM Mentor Training

12 pm 4 August– 6pm, 5 August 2023

St Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd,  
Hillsborough, Auckland



EfM (Education for Ministry) is a programme of study devised primarily for lay people (though ordained folk benefit from participating too!). It provides four-years of study material at a tertiary level and in a learning environment where the reading and reflection undertaken by the individual members of the group is then reflected on together at weekly group meetings and applied to everyday life and ministry.

EfM is a way to continually deepen the journey with God in the company of a group which provides challenge and support and co-learning opportunities. It has both academic rigour and a holistic, grounded way of applying that rigour to the realities of 21<sup>st</sup> century life, living into what it means to be disciples of Christ in our particular time and context.

To support the life of EfM groups and provide for the possibility of new groups forming we need to have mentors who are trained in the skills needed to facilitate these co-learning groups.

A mentor is not an expert, or a tutor, but a co-learner with group members, who has the added group skills to ensure that a safe, honest, non-judgmental learning environment is fostered.

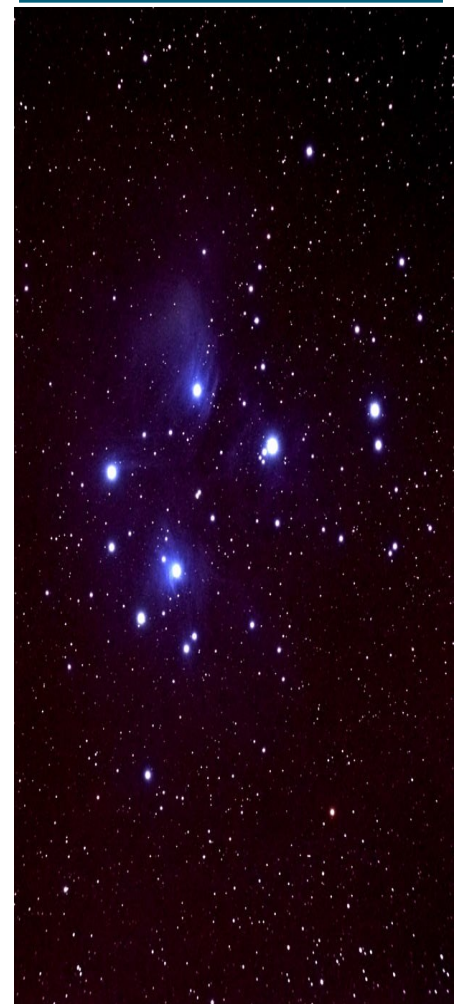
If you think that you might have what it takes to be a mentor, and/or are interested in stepping into the adventure that is EfM, fill in the [registration form](#) and come along to the training event in Auckland. (If the link doesn't work for you try: [www.efm.org.nz/events](http://www.efm.org.nz/events))

*Coming to the training does not commit you to being a mentor! Come, taste, and see!*

If you have questions or want more information email  
[Educationforministrynz@outlook.com](mailto:Educationforministrynz@outlook.com)

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## Education for Ministry Sewanee has a new Executive Director



The University of the South is pleased to announce that the Rev. Kevin M. Goodman will join the School of Theology as Executive Director of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program. Goodman replaces retiring Executive Director Karen Meridith who has led the program since 2010.

Having served as an EfM mentor and trainer for more than thirty years, Kevin brings a deep understanding of EfM to his new role, as well as years of leadership experience in the church. Since his ordination into the priesthood in 2006, Kevin has served the Diocese of Chicago in many capacities, including serving as a street pastor to homeless youth, Associate Rector at All Saints' Ravenswood, and Associate Dean of St. James Cathedral

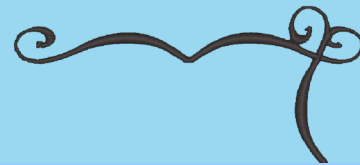
"I am thrilled to be called to serve as EfM's next Executive Director. For nearly 50 years, EfM participants, mentors, coordinators, trainers, and staff have journeyed together, seeking a connection to God's story through concrete and tangible faith actions," said Goodman. "I cannot wait to see how we transform EfM together for the twenty-first century, post-COVID church."

Kevin completed his undergraduate studies in television production at Loyola University, New Orleans and in 2004 he earned a Masters of Divinity from General Theological Seminary. In 2012, Kevin was trained and accredited as an Interim Rector and has since led four congregations in Chicago during times of transition.

"I am very excited that the Rev. Kevin Goodman will be joining our leadership team at the School of Theology," said the Very Rev. Dr. James F. Turrell, Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Theology. "Kevin brings a passion for EfM, years of leadership experience, and skills in managing change. Please join me in welcoming Kevin to the Mountain this June."

*Please distribute this newsletter widely amongst your networks in the community*

# *Trainers' Corner*



**A place to find some ideas for EfM groups**

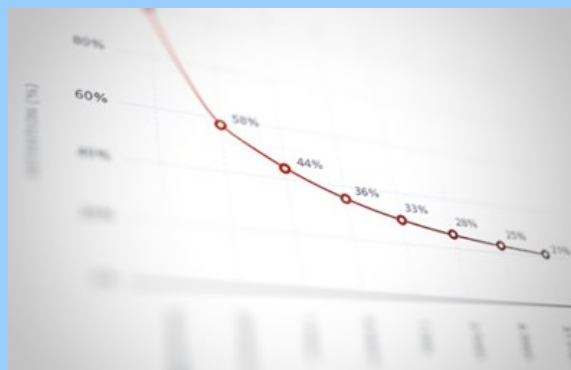
## **The Ebbinghaus Curve of human forgetting**

from an article by Peter W. Marty in the  
September 11, 2019 issue of *The Christian Century*  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/publisher/century-and-forgetting-curve>

*“1885, German psychologist  
Hermann Ebbinghaus published arguably  
the most famous finding of his career.*

*Memory researchers still refer to his work  
on the “forgetting curve.”*

*The forgetting curve graphically illustrates  
how exponentially fast we forget newly acquired  
knowledge and information. The rate of forgetting slows over time; the steepest decline occurs in  
the first hours, levelling off somewhat after the first day.*



*Frustratingly, we remember only a fraction of what our brains take in. Most facts, time lines, expressions, and even experiences fade into vague impressions much faster than we’d like to admit. There’s a good reason our retention capacities are limited. We’d be unable to function were we to remember every detail of every day. The brain’s sorting mechanism for remembering and forgetting is a psychobiological necessity. With the exception of certain savants who appear to have effortless recall, our powers of memory are never going to be great.*

*Consider worship, where the forgetting curve is always in play. A worshipper’s inability to remember the particulars of worship even the day after a service concludes is striking. I have absolutely no idea what I preached about three weeks ago, nor do I recall the Bible reading or narrative theme for that day. I doubt that more than a handful of people in our congregation remember a single musical detail from that day. So much for worship radically altering lives! And yet—this is a big yet—our forgetfulness does **not** diminish the significance of having worshipped. If anything, the cumulative effect of regular worship has a stunning impact on the shape of our lives. The whole repetitive act itself, not merely the remembered particulars, forms us into certain kinds of people. My character and empathy, my spirit and perspective, my joy and gratitude are all shaped by more than the details of what little I can remember from last week’s worship.*

*The same can be said of reading. What’s the point of reading, one might argue, if 95 percent of what we read is forgotten within hours or days? I can’t recall but a few particulars of the sweeping biography I finished last week, or of the multiple news feeds I read just this morning. But that doesn’t mean reading is a waste of time. The habit of reading shapes and critically informs much of who we are. Reading enlarges the way we think and act and perceive the world.”*

This was shared by one of our EfM trainers in 2019. Let’s rejoice in the gift of the EfM practices which shape who we are as people and communities.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/publisher/century-and-forgetting-curve>



## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

*Fertile ground to grow your faith*

Like the mustard seed, we need fertile soil to grow. Education for Ministry (EfM) is like that fertile soil and we are the mustard seeds.

Learning about the Old and New Testaments, church history, and discovering theology is the light shining on the soil, warming it so the seed will sprout.

### ***Thinking about EFM?***

**Do you want to know more about EFM?**

**Are you keen to join or start a new EFM Group?**

**Please contact Michael, who would love to hear from you.**

**Phone 021 246 0672**

**Email: [educationforministrynz@outlook.com](mailto:educationforministrynz@outlook.com)**

## Jean Malcolm to attend EFM Summer Conference

Rev Jean Malcolm will be travelling to Sevanee to attend the summer conference on 20-23 June.

Jean will be welcoming Kevin Goodman into his new role as Executive Director on behalf of Education for Ministry New Zealand.

Jean will also take the opportunity to start conversations on the licencing agreement for

### ***Webinar for EfM Summer Conference Keynote Speech.***

The keynote speech at the EfM Summer Conference will be given by Termaine Hicks. Termaine completed the EfM program while in prison for 19 years for a crime he did not commit. He was exonerated in 2020.

The webinar will take place at 12noon on 22 July New Zealand Time. If you would like to attend register at

[https://sevanee-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ipw90Q9bSZKRERc\\_5ZKEkg#/registration](https://sevanee-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ipw90Q9bSZKRERc_5ZKEkg#/registration)

The session will be recorded and available for viewing at a later date if you are unable to attend the webinar



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