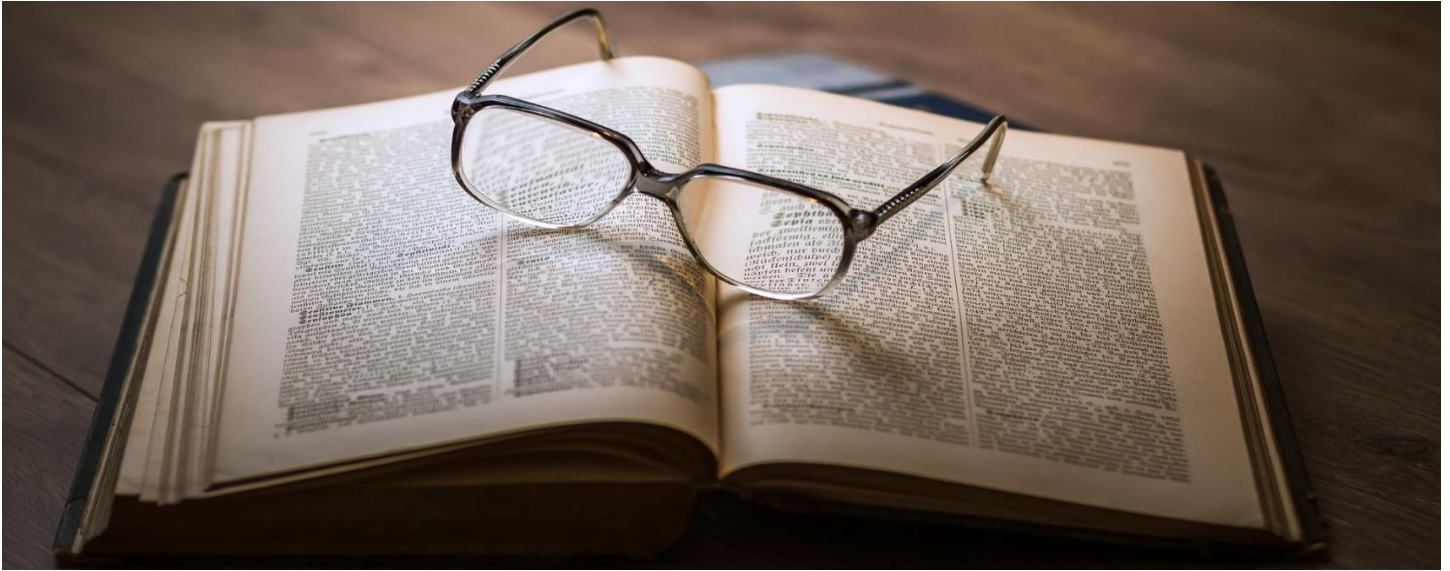


CALGARY SCHOOL FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CALGARY

ISSUE NO. 2

SUMMER 2019



Open for Applications This Fall!

After years of exploration, discussion and planning, the Calgary School for Mission and Ministry will accept its first applications in the fall of 2019, says the Rev. Clara King, Co-chair of the school's Board.

"We're making great progress when it comes to developing the courses, so our next step is to identify and train assessors," Clara explains. "We're feeling really confident that we'll have an assessment process ready for Fall 2019, and that should mean we can hit the 'start' button on the application and assessment program in the next few months."



Forms will be available on [this webpage](#).

The Board's Curriculum/Program Design Committee put a lot of effort into ensuring the assessment process strikes the right balance, says Jennifer Solem, who serves as a lay member of the CSSM Board and the committee. "The process needs to be fair, inclusive, enabling of lay ministry in many contexts, and representative of broad-spectrum Anglican Christianity. It's taken some time to put that together," Jennifer says.

Clara agrees, adding, "The intention of assessment is to help people identify their gifts, to help equip them

with resources that are suited to them, and to honor their prior experience. Our assessors need to be welcoming, encouraging and focused on finding a good 'yes'."

Once the first round of assessments takes place, courses will be offered in multiple locations in the diocese in the first half of 2020.

"We're looking for churches or retreat centres as venues for course weekends," says the Rev. Gordon Pontifex, a member of the CSMM's Logistics Committee.

"With some diocesan funds available, we hope to keep the costs reasonable for participants."

On Course

The courses themselves are progressing extremely well, Clara says. Instructors have been recruited and the first drafts of the course descriptions have been approved by the Bishop.

Instructors are now busy fleshing out those descriptions into full-fledged course outlines.

"We're really excited about the instructors we have in place, and the courses they're developing," Clara says. "One of the advantages to taking a long time to develop this program is we've had the gift of developing very high-quality courses and a high-quality program." † † †

Holding Off on License D

Although plans to create the Calgary School for Mission and Ministry continue at full steam, the Bishop's Committee on Ministry (BCOM) has altered the school's mandate, by temporarily suspending efforts to implement License D, which is for the training of catechists to teach baptism and confirmation classes.

"The role of catechist in the church is really important, and the way License D is framed right now doesn't really capture how important a catechist is," explains the Rev. Elizabeth Short, a member of the CSMM Curriculum/Program Design Committee. "We've come to realize that this is a considerable paradigm shift in the church, and we need to make sure we get it right."



The diocese is transitioning from what Clara describes as a "maintenance model" towards a mindset where each of us is called into deepening lives of discipleship, and the role of the catechist is critical to that transition.

"We are deeply committed to License D, but as we looked at it with fresh eyes and in the context of developing course materials, we realized that what we've expressed is a less than fulsome vision," says the Ven. Pilar Gateman, a member of the CSMM Board and Executive Archdeacon for the diocese. "We need more time to flesh out what the role of the catechist is, can be and should be, in this diocese."

This doesn't mean that laypeople already serving in the role of catechist need to stop what they're doing – or go 'underground' in their efforts – it only means that catechist is outside the scope of the Calgary School for Mission and Ministry until further notice.

"At the present time, you don't need a license to do anything in regard to being a catechist in this diocese. We value and uphold your ministry, and encourage you to persist in it, and contact us if you have questions or ideas," Clara says. "We also have a huge bank of resources, so if you're looking for tools to help you in this ministry, please contact us."

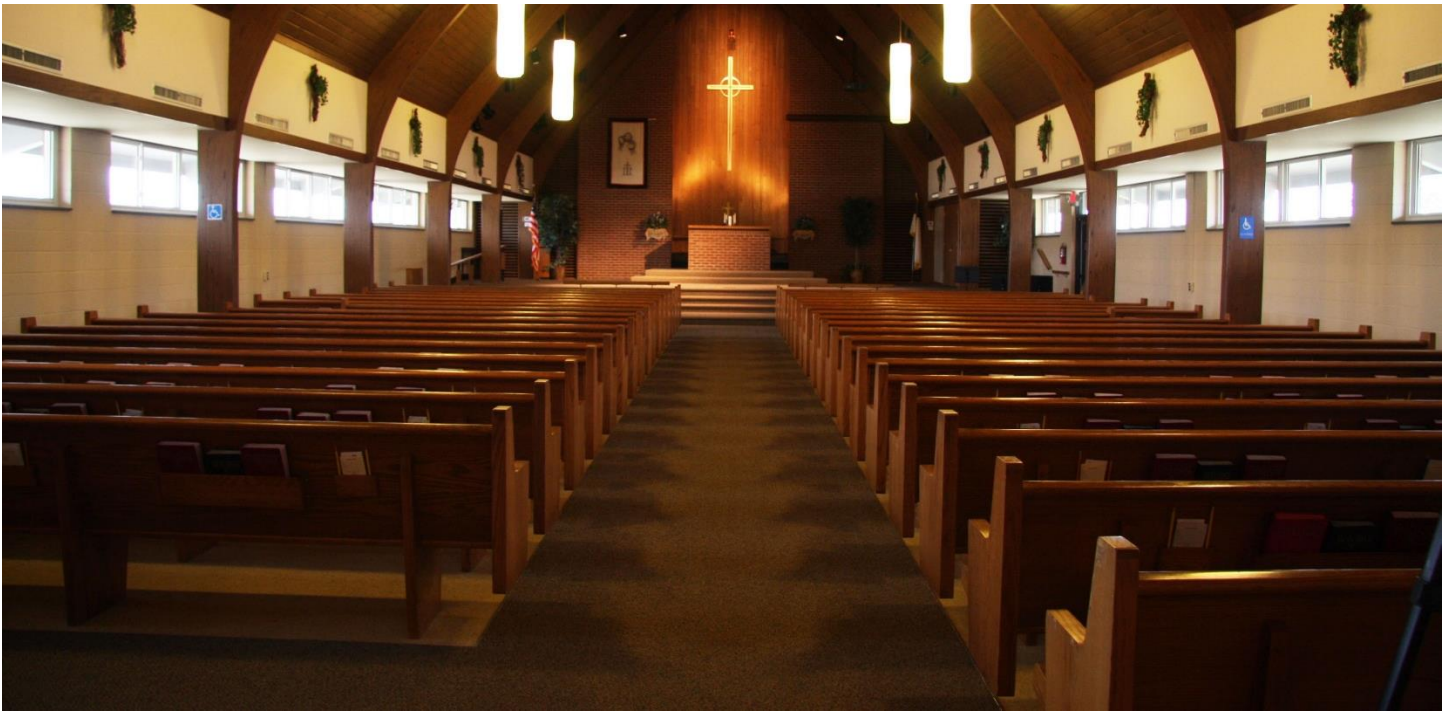
In the meantime, the CSMM will continue on its present path regarding Licenses A, B and C.

"We have three licenses in the LLM program that have a strong vision behind them, and that's how we'll launch the school. We'll add License D as an enhancement in the future," says Clara. † † †



The Four Licenses

- **License A:** Leading public worship in Morning and Evening Prayer, including the reading of sermons or homilies approved by the designated local or regional clergy
- **License B:** Administering Reserved Sacrament to the wider public
- **License C:** Preaching in public worship. This includes the preparation and writing of the sermon as well as delivery.
- **License D:** Catechists (*On Hold at this Time*)



‘You Are the Minister’

“So, if I want to pursue one of these licenses, how long will it take until I’m licensed?”

That’s a question that comes up a lot in discussions about the Calgary School of Mission and Ministry – but the answer depends a lot on the education and experience level of the person who’s asking, so providing a helpful response is tricky, Clara says.

The first step in the licensing process is assessment – a series of conversations with people who have a heart for identifying, equipping and empowering lay ministers. Candidates will be provided in advance with a bibliography of suggested reading, and a list of questions and topics to be discussed during the assessment.

“A person could decide to get the bibliography, study, prepare for the questions, go into the assessment with a great attitude, and come out with one or two things they need to do before they can be licensed: maybe you need to take Year 1 of EfM and one course, for example.”

EfM is short for [Education for Ministry](#) – a four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based on small-group study and practice. It’s not the only option potential licensees can use to strengthen their qualifications, but it’s a good one, Clara says. *(Read more about EfM on Pages 4 and 5.)*

Some applicants may choose to leave the assessment process until after they’ve proactively taken EfM, while concurrently reading all of the recommended books and attending all of the CSMM courses applicable to the

license they’re applying for – and this approach is completely valid as well, Clara says.

“But no one is at zero. The first few classes of people who go through the licensing process overwhelmingly will be Licensed Lay Readers transitioning into the new model,” she notes. “We believe that everyone has gifts, skills and experience that matters. Nobody who feels called to licensed lay ministry will be starting from scratch.”

While the thought of a multi-stage process to a lay ministry license might sound daunting, Clara hopes people will see it, not as a series of hoops to jump through, but as a journey of empowerment and discovery; and an indication of how important Licensed Lay Ministers are.

“If you’re leading morning prayer or taking reserve sacrament to the public, the people you are ministering to don’t know you have not gone to seminary. In these cases, you are the minister,” Pilar explains.

“These are crucial ministries! Our Licensed Lay Ministers represent the church, and Jesus, so it’s vital that we train and equip them to offer the best ministry they can.” † † †



Meet Margaret: a Licensed Lay Minister in the Making

When the Calgary School of Mission and Ministry gets rolling, one of the first students through the doors will likely be Margaret Newton, a lay leader from St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Gleichen.

Margaret is part of a small group of parishioners who take turns leading Morning Prayer in the small church located 80 kilometres southeast of Calgary. She also leads Evensong services, and is active in children's, outreach and hospitality ministries.

She loves serving in her church, but a few years ago, she had a desire to go deeper, and enrolled in the Education For Ministry (EfM) program, which is also a prominent part of the CSMM education landscape.

"I worked in libraries for 54 years, and when I retired two years ago, I really wanted to take religious studies," Margaret recalls. "I was a child of the church for all of my life, and I've been involved in ministry for many years. I wanted to do something that was for me – and also for Him, so I decided to try EfM."

She completed the second year of the four-year EfM program in June, and says the curriculum didn't just exceed her expectations, it blew them away. Although the assignments are sometimes challenging, they're always worth it. For Margaret, the journey of learning has been a joy.

"It's changed me. The relationship I have with God, and my understanding of Scripture, are so much deeper. I keep thinking, 'How could I have been so involved with the church for so long and not have understood and known all these things?'"

As EfM continues to develop Margaret as both a believer and a servant, she's not sure what directions her ministries will take. She knows she wants to continue working with children, and also thinks God might be

calling her to hospice-related ministry, in addition to continuing to lead services.

Margaret isn't a licensed lay reader under the existing system, but she plans to pursue License A – leading public worship in Morning and Evening Prayer – and possibly some of the other licenses as well, once the CSMM launches.



Whatever her ministry future looks like, she sees tremendous value in being licensed to serve in ministry.

"If I'm licensed, it says to the people who come that I'm recognized by the Diocese of Calgary as someone who's at least telling the truth as they see it from an Anglican point of view," Margaret says.

"I think it's really important that when I speak, I can speak comfortably as a representative of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Calgary."

St. Andrew's hosts two Clergy-led Communion services each month, but

everything else falls to the laity.

That's why Margaret is encouraged to see the diocese investing significantly in the idea of empowering and equipping the laity for leadership, through the Calgary School for Mission and Ministry.

"There's no denying that we don't have enough priests, and if we're going to be there for people, having licensed lay leaders in the church is critical," she says. "We have this untapped resource of people who want to know more and want to share."

"Honestly, this could be the beginning of a swing back to more people in church – and I'm really excited about that." † † †

Got Questions?

For more information about the CSMM, contact:

- The Rev. Clara King: clara@stgeorgescalgary.com
- The Ven. Pilar Gateman: pgateman@calgary.anglican.ca



Explore Great Questions with EfM

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’

Mark 8:27-29a

- What DO we who follow Jesus believe and say about him? Why?
- How did we get the Church(es) we have today?
- What does it mean to discern God's call in your life?

If you like to learn in community; if you like good questions better than easy answers, we want to invite you to prayerfully consider EfM, a course of study for people interested in deepening their understanding and expression of their Christian faith.

EfM is a community of six to 12 adults who learn, laugh and pray together while learning about their Christian heritage to better live out their faith.

EfM has no exams, essays or lectures – you are responsible for reading and engaging the curriculum yourself (usually a minimum of two to four hours of reading per week).

There is a weekly seminar that meets September to June under the guidance of trained mentors to discuss, pray, reflect, and share insights and discoveries.

Committing to one year of study at a time, participants journey through the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), the New Testament (Christian Scriptures), and 3,000 (not a typo!) years of Church history.

We encounter theology – seeking after God – in the sacramental mysteries and other spiritual

practices. We wrestle with Biblical interpretation; hear from interreligious, feminist, and Indigenous perspectives; try to find our own place in the Great Story. At the end of four years, participants receive a certificate in Theological Education from the University of the South.

The cost is \$350 per year Cdn, plus textbooks; bursaries available.

Education for Ministry is about lay ministry – how our faith is expressed in our daily life and work, church-related or

not. Informally, we have adopted the credo ‘Exploring Faith Matters’, because we believe it does.

If you think so too, check out the website and sample lessons at efm.sewanee.edu. Email efmststephens@shaw.ca or phone (403) 804-2768 to enroll.

We hope to complete registration by mid-August but call early to ensure your place at the table. Daytime and evening classes begin at St. Andrew’s and St. Stephen’s Anglican Churches in Calgary in September.

Other times and locations are negotiable, and the course is also available online. †††

