

Formation for Ministry Groups Overview - EPMC

INTRODUCTION

Students at Calvin Theological Seminary are being formed for ministry. They are clarifying their call to ministry, honing their practical ministry skills, engaging in theological reflection, and attending to their personal spiritual formation. Four key settings where CTS students experience formation for ministry are the classroom, the local church, the vocational mentor relationship, and the summer internships. The experiences students have in these four settings are processed in their Formation for Ministry (FFM) groups.

Objectives

FFM groups have the following objectives:

1. To provide an environment within which students, together with their FFM leader, can explore their personal spiritual formation, call to ministry, theological reflection, and practical ministry skills.
2. To develop quality relationships with peers and the faculty FFM leader thereby providing strong support and candid feedback within the group.
3. To guide students into an understanding of the qualifications for ministry and how the qualifications relate both to the calling and task of ministry.
4. To assist students in developing a growing awareness of the personal, familial, and environmental factors that have shaped that person's sense of calling to the ministry.
5. To process the students' ministry practices experiences.
6. To increase the students' awareness of how their personality type relates to their leadership style / strengths in a variety of ministry settings.
7. To enhance the students' ability to reflect theologically by engaging in group Theological Reflection.

Fall Quarter FFM Group for EPMC Students

Because EPMC students are together for only 9 weeks in the fall quarter, the objectives for the FFM Group are met by the following activities.

1. Week 1–2 Orientation to Formation for Ministry
2. Week 2-5 Sharing of personal journey of faith, and call to ministry
3. Week 6-9 Sharing of emerging pastoral identity as experienced in ministry