

Whom do I contact or where can I find more information about the School for Ministry Development?

Every diocesan congregation is sent a schedule of classes, along with other information, by brochure or flyer. One can check the Diocesan website for SMD information:

<http://www.episcopalswfl.org>.

The Dean of the SMD, Archdeacon Dennis McManis can be contacted at dmcmanis@episcopalswfl.org.

Dean McManis' assistant, Michelle Mercurio can be contacted at mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org.

The chairperson of the SMD Board, Mother Carolyn Biggs, may be reached at: ckbiggs57@earthlink.net.

For More Information

The Rev. Carolyn Kirk Biggs,
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The Ven. Dennis McManis,
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Or you may contact any SMD Board Member

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FAQ's

www.episcopalswfl.org



Questions and Answers for Prospective Students

The School for Ministry Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Why are the class days so long?

Each class is complete in one day. To cover the material thoroughly, both a morning and afternoon session is necessary, with a lunch break. Each class day is framed in prayer and concludes with a Eucharist service.

Why should I travel to classes when our church can offer what is needed?

Not all congregations are equipped to offer ongoing formation classes. Many cannot offer the diversity a school with a varied faculty can. SMD offers another level of Christian formation to compliment what congregations present.

Why are written reports required?

Written expression solidifies the learning experience and offers the means to evaluate comprehension gained. Credit students are required to write a paper.

Why are classes graded?

The Diocesan Commission on Ministry sets standards to define comprehension and mastery of a subject. A written paper and grade are tools for evaluation. Students in diaconal discernment require specific classes over a three year period. All classes are graded.

Is it possible to audit classes?

Any student, other than one in diaconal discernment, may request audit status upon registration. No written paper will be required or grade given. There is a reduced fee.

Why do classes require assigned reading? Why are the topics demanding?

The School for Ministry Development believes their students are contemplating involvement in congregational ministry, seeking diocesan certification for specific ministries, discerning a call to the Diaconate or desire broader exposure to spiritual formation, not otherwise offered. Since each class is complete in one day, advance reading deepens exposure to the subject. Class subjects are meant to be stimulating and challenging to our students.

We are not receiving information about SMD at my church. What should I do to make sure we get it?

Usually information is sent out by snail mail or email, according to which format is requested, but sometimes it is lost in the crush of other messages. Ask your church secretary if she or he has received SMD information or whoever sorts the mail. Contact the Dean of SMD and make sure you are on the mailing list. Routinely check the Diocesan website to see SMD class schedules. Make sure your church gets the information needed.

When must a potential student register for classes?

Students must register *three weeks prior* for their desired class, to allow time to obtain and read any required materials. The SMD Board suggests every congregation post the class schedule and brochure on the church message board and add a church bulletin insert a full month or more prior to classes beginning, to maximize exposure to the congregation.

How do I register and pay for classes?

Registration and payment forms are available to download at the Diocesan website

Where can I buy the required readings?

Link to Amazon.com to purchase reading materials. Initiate your Amazon search through the Diocesan website and the Diocese will receive a donation in return.

Who is the target audience?

All baptized persons may attend any class of their choosing. Classes are open to all lay persons. For those discerning a call to the Diaconate, certain classes are required by the COM. In the school's third year of operation, we will also add pastoral care classes for clergy as well as Diaconal Studies for those who are postulants for Holy Orders.