

**LS/SP501 Anglican Formation Retreat:
The History, Theology and Practice of Marriage in the Anglican Tradition**

Fall Semester November 3-4, 2022

Instructor: Archbishop (retired) Melissa M. Skelton

mskelton@ecww.org

206.693.8542

PREREQUISITES

Open to Anglican students in the M.Div. program unless by special permission of the Instructor. Students in the Diploma in Anglican Diaconal Studies (DADS) program may also attend.

PURPOSE

Marriage today is under considerable pressure to adapt and change in the face of numerous socially acceptable ways of approaching and living in committed relationships. What should the Church encourage, bless and support? What are the norms or standards of Christian marriage?

Marriage has been seen as a powerful symbol of reconciliation, as a means of living out a vocation to create a loving community and sign of Christ's love, and as one of the pillars of society. Is there any reason to see it differently now?

People who will be conducting marriages on behalf of the Church need clarity about what marriage is and how it might be celebrated in the light of the emergence of new understandings about the nature of human sexuality and relationships. They also need practical guidance about the preparation of couples for marriage, conducting the marriage, itself, and the continuing support of married couples after the marriage has taken place.

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES

Participants will

- Engage in a deeper reflection about their own experience of marriage both in their family of origin as well as in their own marriages or in marriages they have observed.
- Increase their knowledge about the background and evolving meaning of marriage to include the development of pastoral approaches and practices appropriate to today
- Explore theologies of the sacrament of marriage and articulate their own.
- Develop and approach to and resources for preparing couples for marriage.
- Be able to conduct a wedding rehearsal and marriage ceremony founded in clarity about their role.

FORMAT

This formation retreat will meet in-person: Thursday Nov 3, 6-9pm and Friday Nov 4, 9am-5pm

REQUIRED READING AND TEXTS

The Anglican Church of Canada, This Holy Estate: The Report of the Commission on the Marriage Canon of the Anglican Church of Canada,
https://www.anglican.ca/wpcontent/uploads/Marriage_Canon_REPORT_15Sept22.pdf

Liturgical Resources 2 (Episcopal Church)
<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21226>

The Book of Alternative Services (Anglican Church of Canada) pp. 526--540

The Book of Common Prayer (Anglican Church of Canada), pp. 562 -- 572

The Bible (New Revised Standard Version)

Canon XXI of the Anglican Church of Canada
<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/221-2019-canon-xxi.pdf>

COURSE POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS

- In-person attendance for all sessions of the course, and active participation in discussions.
- Completion of all reading and assignments: Come to class prepared (required reading done in advance of sessions).
- Assessment and approval (or non-approval) is based on a combination of participation in discussions, comprehension and retention of what is taught in the sessions as well as completion of a written assignment.
- The subject and due date of the assignment (a 1250-word paper) will be given at the time of the retreat
- Note: VST's Readiness for Ministry criteria always factor into formation courses.