



mid-valley
fellowship 



Post Office Box 3141, Albany, Oregon 97321
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Our Erēmos Experience



Jennifer Caswell (2019-20)

I'm thankful for the catalyst that the Erēmos Internship has been in my life, facilitating leadership development and personal growth. Erēmos has also been the ground in which my relationship with Jesus and my relationships with others have been further cultivated.

I started the internship with a limited understanding of what it would be like. I desired deeper relationships, deeper healing, and I was also seeking a better understanding of future ministry. If I'm honest, I imagined the typical and worldly portrayal of internships: I was about to get used for all I'm worth, burdened by unreasonable demands that would either "make me" or "break me" ... Thank God my imagination was misguided! Erēmos has been a grace-saturated training ground. The books, assignments, and service opportunities have stretched me, offered new perspectives, and challenged me to step out of my comfort zone. I was instructed, challenged, mentored,

encouraged, held accountable, and loved. Being loved has made it a safe space for growth, even when growth has felt painful and uncomfortable.

One area where growth has been most painful has been relationships. From boundaries to conflict resolution to avoiding emotional dependency, healthy relationships take work (and humility!), but they are invaluable. I've spent many years avoiding conflicts and abandoning relationships that required defining boundaries. I'm really thankful that God has brought me to a place of stepping into conflicts, communicating boundaries, and practicing grace. The value of relationships outweighs the uncomfortable and painful work. All of my relationships in my life have benefited from what I've learned in Erēmos.

The other big takeaway is a new way of processing emotions. I've learned to look deep at what is in me and why it's there, of course with the help of my Papa Father God. He patiently and gently heals and redeems.

Kathy Robertson (2019-20)

Prior to starting my internship at MVF, my leadership health and abilities were unknown in many respects. I already knew I had certain skill sets that were complimentary to being a leader, but not necessarily well-honed ones. Over the last five years, Jesus has taken a hold of my life, including my sexual brokenness. During that time, I have not really pursued being a leader. I knew that during the internship, I would come to know myself better, including better honesty with myself and others, not only in my leadership skills, but in every area of my life.

What I was looking for from participating in the MVF internship was to grow in my relational skills and grow spiritually in community, while practicing being accountable to others and under leadership. I also had no doubt that greater healing would come in many ways and that it would likely be the hardest thing in my life thus far. And finally, in the process of the internship, I would come to know myself better and have better direction generally, and possibly specifically, in my life.

The internship, as expected, has been the hardest thing I have done in my entire life, and it is not over yet. Would I choose to do it over again? Yes and with no doubt! For me, the internship has been a perfect place for me to grow in community and be accountable for others about every area of my life.

I have been facing relationships, including deep conflict, in ways I would have never done before. Prior to the internship, I rarely faced conflict. In the internship, I am routinely facing conflict and learning to do so in healthy ways. I have also been growing spiritually throughout the internship. Without Jesus, none of the above would be possible. As far as having direction, I do have some more clarity than I had before, but exact details are yet to be known.





Michael Goeke (2018-19)

Six months into this journey and so much has changed! The fear and anxiety of walking this path has been replaced with fulfillment. Through the internship training I've begun stepping into the ministry God has called me to. I can see God is at work, as others have been impacted by His promptings in relation to my sharing. I'm so happy to see others stepping into relationship in new ways with Him.

The journey is also challenging. My wife Steph continues to shoulder a greater part of responsibility for the house and kids, as I pour time and energy into the Erēmos Internship. I'm greatly encouraged to hear that people are specifically praying for our marriage.

Tim Jenks (2018-19)

When we first started the Erēmos Internship last fall, I did not know exactly what to expect. Alumni of the Internship would tell me how hard it would be. While that has been partially true, it has also been a great and very necessary learning experience. I have long felt that the Lord is leading me to a ministry of sharing the Gospel with homosexual men primarily. Being a part of Erēmos this year is giving me confidence to carry on with that in the coming years. I know that even if I separate into another ministry that MVF will be here to give me encouragement, guidance, and advice.



Kent Glazier (2017-18)



The residential piece of the program has served to give clear definition to this season. It provides parameters separating me from the life I considered "normal." The MVF House has afforded me the space I need to focus on whatever the Lord is stirring up through counseling, small groups, leadership time, worship, curricula, or in any other way. It has been space to allow my thoughts and feelings to spill onto the pages of my journal, into art, and upward in prayer and quiet reflection. I believe it's God's provision for this leg of my journey with Him, and I am grateful for it.

I've also enjoyed the opportunity to live in community with other believers who are equally committed to engaging with the Lord in their journeys. Playing some small part in God's plan for each other's lives is both encouraging and fulfilling, and though we're each walking a path unique to ourselves, I find comfort in doing it together.

Chris Goeke (2016-17)

The Erēmos Program has been an out-of-the-way place where I've been free of the noise and striving that once controlled my life. It's brought me to a place where I could hear God's truth about who he made me to be and have the faith to allow him to direct my life. I'm no longer being held back from the great things God has for me, and it brings me incredible joy and anticipation of what's yet to come! The staff at Mid-Valley Fellowship have poured so much dedication and love into the program participants, but it's not just what the program offers in itself that makes it so amazing. I'm constantly seeing God using the Erēmos experience to help me engage with very specific personal things in my life that need attention for me to grow. Everything from the materials we have studied to the leadership responsibilities I've stepped into and even the relational interactions and conflicts I've been able to work through have been perfectly woven together by God to help me experience exceeding progress and the joy of being who God created me to be.





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Doctrinal Statement

- We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the final authority for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in right living.
- We believe in one God, existing eternally in three Persons: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, only-begotten Son of the Father. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, buried, and rose physically from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father and will come again in power and glory.
- We believe that faith alone in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord frees us from the mastery of sin, and its consequences of death and eternal damnation. He assumed the penalty of death Himself, and enables us to live out of resurrected life unto eternity.
- We believe the Holy Spirit carries out this work of renewal in our lives, empowering us to grow in loving union with our Heavenly Father and to walk in obedience to His will.
- We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is formed of all those who know Him as their Savior and Lord, regardless of denominational beliefs.



Mid-Valley Fellowship is a local Christian organization that presents a message of hope and healing for those struggling with sexual brokenness. We minister to individuals, churches, and those facing the reality of a spouse, family member, or friend impacted by sexual brokenness.

Mid-Valley Fellowship is a non-profit, interdenominational ministry, serving the Central Willamette Valley (Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, and Salem). We are not a mental health facility. Instead, our methodology utilizes personal testimonies, trained lay counseling, Biblical instruction, and Christ-centered accountability groups.

We offer a choice to those who struggle with sexual identity issues. We support no political agendas or candidates.

We firmly believe that sexual and relational redemption is available for all who seek it.

Mid-Valley Fellowship upholds heterosexuality and sexual fulfillment within the confines of marriage as God's creative intent for humanity. Accordingly, we view homosexual expression and non-marital sexual activity as outside of God's intent. We recognize homosexual tendencies and sexually addictive behaviors as disorders that beset fallen humanity, among many others.

Choosing to resolve homosexual tendencies through homosexual behavior, taking on a homosexual identity, and involvement in a homosexual lifestyle is considered destructive, as it distorts God's intent for the individual and is therefore sinful. Likewise, choosing to resolve a desire for intimacy through sexual activity outside of marriage is considered destructive, as it distorts God's intent for the individual and is therefore sinful.

Unfortunately, neither of the two most common responses to the issue of sexual brokenness truly resolves the conflict. The first is to condemn the sexually broken out of fear, ignorance, and self-righteousness. The second is the unqualified validation of the individual and his or her lifestyle choices.

Instead, we believe that Christ offers a truly healing alternative to sexual brokenness. Mid-Valley Fellowship upholds redemption for the sexually broken person as the process whereby sin's power is broken. The individual is freed to know and experience true identity as discovered in Christ and His Church, and that process entails the freedom to grow into sexual wholeness.



Erēmos Cohort Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Birth Date: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Age: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Male Female Married Engaged Single Divorced

Letters of Reference: Please list the name of 1 pastoral reference who will provide a letter of reference. (You are responsible to give a Request for Reference (Cohort) form to this individual.)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

What are your ministry goals?

What is your philosophy of ministry?

What is your ministry experience?

Mid-Valley Fellowship is a local Christian organization that presents a message of hope and healing for those struggling with sexual and relational wholeness. We minister to individuals, churches, and those facing the reality of a spouse, family member, or friend impacted by sexual brokenness. The ministry requires a high degree of transparency and comfort discussing deeply personal issues. It is for this reason that we ask you to answer the following questions:

What is your experience with homosexuality, pornography/sexual addiction, sexual abuse, or other sexual struggles?

Please check the items below with which you have experience, either personally or with your family or friends:

Past	Present	Personally	Others	
_____	_____	_____	_____	Abortion
_____	_____	_____	_____	Abuse (verbal, physical, sexual)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Alcoholism
_____	_____	_____	_____	Cults
_____	_____	_____	_____	Drug Abuse
_____	_____	_____	_____	Occult Activity
_____	_____	_____	_____	Promiscuity
_____	_____	_____	_____	Prostitution
_____	_____	_____	_____	Satanism

Explain:

Are you presently dealing with any addictions:

- Alcohol
 Cigarettes
 Chewing Tobacco
 Gambling
 Marijuana
 Other: _____

Have you ever been through a Mid-Valley Fellowship or similar support program?

If yes, when? _____ Where? _____

Name of leader/counselor: _____

Describe your experience of the program:

Describe a situation in which you encountered conflict and how you resolved your part of it.

Each individual will be required to join a local church body of his/her choosing. Describe your history with the Body of Christ and/or denominational affiliation.

What is your view of the authority of the Bible? Cite scripture reference.

What is your theological opinion of homosexuality? Cite scripture reference.

What is your theological opinion of pornography/sexual addiction? Cite scripture reference.

What is your theological opinion of sexual abuse? Cite scripture reference.

Is there any other information that you think would be helpful for us to know?

Please Send Application and \$25 Application Fee To:
Mid-Valley Fellowship, Post Office Box 3141, Albany, Oregon 97321
midvalleyfellowship.org • 541.928.2164 • office@midvalleyfellowship.org



Request for Reference (Cohort)

Name of Applicant _____

Reference Due By _____

The applicant above has applied for the Erēmos Cohort with Mid-Valley Fellowship. Mid-Valley Fellowship is a local Christian organization helping individuals obtain sexual and relational wholeness in the midst of a broken and confused world.

The Erēmos Cohort is a nine-month accessible learning community for those desiring leadership development while balancing family, ministry, and work responsibilities. Cohort members will join the Erēmos Interns twice monthly for instruction and will engage in a book study and online discussion.

Please provide a reference letter, including the details below. If you have no knowledge of a particular area, simply omit it from your letter.

- Describe how you know the applicant (include dates/length of time known).
- Describe the applicant's:
 - ◇ Personal character, attitude, integrity
 - ◇ Relationships with others
 - ◇ Relationship with God and spiritual maturity
 - ◇ Experience and ability working as a part of a team
 - ◇ Overall performance in past role(s)
- What are your thoughts regarding the applicant engaging with this cohort?
- What skills, perspective, and gifts does the applicant have to offer Mid-Valley Fellowship?
- What struggles and opportunities for growth have you observed?
- Any other relevant comments

Mail reference letter to:

Mid-Valley Fellowship
PO Box 3141
Albany, OR 97321

Email to: office@midvalleyfellowship.org