

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP AT AST FAQ

What is the purpose of the Atlantic School of Discipleship?

The Atlantic School of Discipleship at AST is intended to help Christian communities in their important task of Adult Faith development by making available locally the world-class scholars on the AST Faculty. It is designed to give participants a solid grounding in important topics for our Christian journey in a way that will be open and welcoming to anyone.

Who can take this program?

The program is primarily set up for parish/congregation groups because we believe that learning together creates stronger and more long-lasting positive results.

What if I've never studied religion or theology?

No problem. The content of the program is geared towards someone who is interested in exploring their faith. If you are interested in more intensive studies, AST has a variety of degree and diploma programs that might interest you. Explore them [here](#).

What do I receive at the end?

Every person will receive a certificate of participation through the mail. Please note, this program does not give the participant advanced standing in any AST program, nor does it claim to equip participants for any ministry. Those decisions are made by the church.

What is the time commitment?

Each month participants will receive (electronically) up to 100 pages of introductory material and reflection questions designed to help you consider how the material can impact your faith walk. On the second Tuesday of the month, there will be a live-to-zoom presentation by an AST instructor. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, there will be a live question and response session to talk about what we've been learning. The hope is that congregation/parish groups will meet together on those Tuesday nights. In addition, there are four "retreat days" throughout the year. This will allow in-person meeting with other congregation/parish groups in your area.

How do I form a group?

The best way is to approach your clergy and inform them of your interest. Then you can help recruit others. If your congregation/parish currently does not have clergy, then we encourage a lay leader to take on the organizing task. This involves: finding a location for the two Tuesday evenings; being able to connect a computer to a TV; internet access to Zoom.

What if there is no group in my congregation/parish?

There is an option for individual study and the program coordinator will endeavour to connect you with local groups for the four retreats (see above).

What is the cost?

Congregation/parish groups (leader + four others) \$1000.00. Individuals \$300.00. Please note, you must register for the entire program (nine modules) and begin in October. Registrations will not be accepted after October 1, 2024.

Is there any support for costs?

We encourage you to contact your diocese, region or other judicatory body to inquire about assistance for lay learning. Clergy may access continuing education funds. There may be money in your congregation/parish budget.

Is this just for Anglican and United Church people?

By no means! AST is grateful for the interest of the Founding Parties: Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Church. For Roman Catholics, there is considerable overlap with the [Diploma in the New Evangelization](#) and you are encouraged to explore that opportunity. Those from other (or no) Christian tradition are also invited to register.

How do we register?

Registration details are coming soon.

For more information:

Contact the program coordinator, Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett at discipleship@astheology.ns.ca