

David Harrison's Technology Plan for EfM Online

Because the University of the South has withdrawn support for Blackboard and Zoom, I decided to attempt to replicate the benefits those software packages provide to the EfM online community.

For a number of years I have made use of a listserver to provide a simple way for all members of my group to communicate with each other during the week when not in class. Email sent and received through the listserver is treated like regular email.

Blackboard provided us with a discussion platform. To replace that I signed up for a free account with ProBoards:

<https://www.proboards.com/>

While the free version is supported by advertising, the paid version which does not have advertising is outrageously expensive for our use with small groups. It appears that unless you are signed up, you are unable to participate (either read or write) on the forum, which is what I wished. I will promote members of the group to moderator status and set access permissions for the one forum that I have created to only allow moderators to read and write. The setup is a little complicated and I am learning as I go.

Blackboard also provided us with a place to store documents for our groups to access. To replace that facility I am using a Dropbox folder. To sign up for a free account, go to www.dropbox.com

If you do not already have an account, sign up for a free account.

Zoom: I purchased a Zoom account which is shared with a number of church organizations with which I am affiliated: parish, Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers Association, etc. This spread out the cost (\$200.00/yr) to make it more affordable for everyone. I maintain the

July 31, 2021

schedule so that I am sure there are no conflicts. I have made it clear that my EfM class has priority!

If anyone needs help in setting up any of the above, I am happy to assist.

David Harrison

djh@djharrison.ca