

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) trains Brethren ministers answering the call in many seasons of life. Courses range from graduate to certificate levels, accommodating different levels of academic preparation. Since most SVMC students are working adults, we schedule courses for week-day evenings and Saturdays and hold them in regionally-based locations. A synchronous online option is available for some courses. All students receive individualized attention and quality instruction at highly affordable rates. Laity are also welcome to join our courses for personal enrichment or to explore ministry training.



Jeff Bach instructs ACTS students in *Church of the Brethren History*

SVMC courses cover typical subjects such as biblical studies, theology, church history, and ministry skills, but approach these from a perspective grounded in the Anabaptist and Pietist roots of the Church of the Brethren.

Our students are rooted in local communities. That's why SVMC brings ministry training to them.

Graduate Education

Bethany Theological Seminary courses are offered as three-weekend hybrid intensives at Elizabethtown and Juniata Colleges with Zoom options. The courses can apply toward a graduate degree or be audited for continuing education units.

TRIM

(Training in Ministry)

Courses that count toward the Brethren Academy's Training in Ministry certificate serve individuals for whom full-time participation in a college or seminary program is not feasible. Courses are taught via Zoom.

"As a TRIM student, I greatly appreciated the flexibility and availability SVMC courses afforded my ministry journey. It was possible to utilize appropriate ACTS courses as well as audit several graduate courses from Bethany Seminary to supplement and round out the total learning challenge I needed for TRIM completion. The variety of options offered was matched only by the quality of instructors, fellow students and cooperation I received in helping me get the courses that were needed."

— David Crumrine, Pastor, Roaring Spring Church of the Brethren, Middle PA District

ACTS

(Academy Certified Training System)

ACTS is a basic certificate program that satisfies ordination requirements. Classes meet on weeknights or Saturdays and are held in all five partner districts. A synchronous online option is available for some courses.

"As a wife, mother of two young girls, and full-time music teacher, I am thankful for the flexibility provided by the ACTS program. Instructors and staff strive to make every course practical, thoughtful, spirit-filled, and tied closely to Church of the Brethren theology and practice. In addition, the small class sizes allow for a spirit of collaboration and relationship building."

— Rachel Bucher Swank, current ACTS student, Atlantic Northeast District

Continuing Education

One-day courses ranging from Brethren history and biblical scholarship to ministry skills and current topics can be taken for re-credentialing (CEUs) or general interest.

Planting the Seeds for Ministry

Our five-district partnership works together to offer Calling the Called events for individuals to explore the possibility of entering the set-apart ministry.

- ◆ Do you see the gifts and graces for ministry in someone? Tell them what you see and encourage them.
- ◆ Do you sense God's call in your life? Talk to your pastor, district minister, or SVMC.

Someone will help you discern the call you are sensing.



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

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A Church of the Brethren theological program in ministry and leadership.

In partnership with:

Atlantic Northeast District

Middle Pennsylvania District

Mid-Atlantic District

Southern Pennsylvania District

Western Pennsylvania District

Bethany Theological Seminary

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

This partnership affords students in our own region opportunities to learn the art of ministry from a distinctly Church of the Brethren perspective.

