

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) trains Brethren ministers answering the call in many seasons of life. Our courses are certificate-level for the ACTS and TRIM programs. Since most SVMC students are working adults, we schedule courses for weekday 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.



Joe Detrick instructs ACTS students in *Introduction to Worship*. This course was held in a hybrid format (in person or Zoom).

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.

## 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.

*“The ACTS program has given me new insights as to what the role of a pastor is all about. The program is flexible — I was able to take a two-year absence due to a life-threatening illness. It has given me new skills that I can practice right away.”*

—Kevin Zurin, 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. SVMC invites Bethany Theological Seminary faculty to lead two events per year.

Nurturing Ministry Skills sessions are held on Zoom and feature a variety of topics of interest to both clergy and laity. Lay persons are particularly encouraged to register for these sessions.

## 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 online or synchronous video.

*“I felt called to pastoral ministry but going the traditional seminary route was not going to work for my busy life or tight budget. That is why SVMC’s ACTS program was an answered prayer for me. The class schedule fit well into my schedule, I was able to attend locally and most importantly I got a high quality education that was affordable.”*

—Kaitlyn Coughenour, current ACTS student,  
Western Pennsylvania District



## Planting the Seeds for Ministry

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center encourages everyone to plant the seeds of ministry.

### IN WHOM DO YOU SEE THESE GIFTS?

- ◆ Devoted follower of Jesus
- ◆ Passion for people
- ◆ Willingness to serve
- ◆ Non-anxious presence
- ◆ Desire to learn
- ◆ Willing heart
- ◆ Many other gifts and graces

### HOW CAN YOU PLANT THE SEEDS FOR MINISTRY?

- ◆ Identify gifts
- ◆ Ask if they sense a call from God to ministry
- ◆ Encourage them to consider how their skills can be developed and used in ministry
- ◆ Offer your prayerful support to them as they explore the call to ministry training and credentialing

### WHERE SHOULD ONE TURN IF CONSIDERING MINISTRY?

- ◆ Share your sense of call with someone who can point you in the right direction
- ◆ Talk to your pastor
- ◆ Talk to your district executive
- ◆ Contact Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, Bethany Theological Seminary, or Office of Ministry



*Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's mission is to equip leaders for ministry in a regionally based, Christ centered, culturally relevant context in ways that bear witness to the beliefs, heritage, and practices of the Church of the Brethren.*

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*Susquehanna  
Valley  
Ministry  
Center*

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.