

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

By partnering with Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and five districts, SVMC affords students in our own region opportunities to learn the art of ministry from a distinctly Church of the Brethren perspective.



Instructors Randy Yoder and Warren Eshbach lead a TRIM course in Church of the Brethren polity at The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College.



SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER

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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

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER

A Church of the Brethren theological program in ministry and leadership

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) trains Brethren ministers answering the call in many seasons of life. Classes range from graduate to certificate levels, accommodating different levels of academic preparation. Since most SVMC students are working adults, we schedule courses for weekday evenings and Saturdays and hold them in regionally-based locations. We also sponsor continuing education events. All students receive individualized attention and quality instruction at highly affordable rates.



Professor Jeff Bach teaching “Church of the Brethren History.”

SVMC courses cover typical ministry 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.

Graduate Education

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

“The availability and relevance of seminary-level SVMC courses make them a convenient and valuable addition to my training for ministry.”

—Joel Gibbel, Bethany M.Div. student from Lititz, PA

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 at Elizabethtown College, Juniata College, at local churches, or online.

“I have been able to apply the majority of what I have learned through [SVMC]... to the work I have been called to do.”

—Traci Rabenstein, TRIM graduate

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.

“The [ACTS] classes have proven to me that I can still learn and grow and it is truly a wonderful thing.”

—Karen Grossnickle, ACTS student

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.

“You make the need to earn CEUs fun and easy.”

—2015 CE event evaluation

