

2022 Diocesan Convention Report

Purpose of The Stevenson School for Ministry: To support theological education and formation for the current and future leadership needs of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Leadership formation for lay and ordered ministry continues while expanding our welcome to others such as the Diocese of Delaware and creating opportunities for collaborative learning. To offer alternative options for congregations and leadership to engage in formation of God's action in the world using the best of technology.

2021-22 Term Enrollments

Term	Dates	Total Enrollments
Winter 2021 Term	November 8, 2021 - February 4, 2022 *includes Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks	180
Spring 2022 Term	February 14 - April 29, 2022	83
Summer 2022 Term	May 23 - August 8, 2022	30
Fall 2022 Term	August 22 - October 28, 2022	70
Winter 2022 Term	November 7, 2022 - February 3, 2023 *includes Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks	Registration ends in November

Cohort Enrollment in Fall Term 2022 *as of September 9, 2022

Program	Total Students	Student Dioceses
Lancaster Theological Seminary/Moravian University Anglican Studies	3	Central Pennsylvania - 1 Pennsylvania- 1 Bethlehem- 1
United Lutheran Seminary Anglican Studies	3	Pennsylvania- 1 New Jersey - 1 Upper Susquehanna Synod- 1
Priesthood Certificate	5	Central Pennsylvania - 1 Virgin Islands - 3 Pittsburgh - 1
Diaconate Certificate	6	Central Pennsylvania - 3 Virgin Islands - 2 Bethlehem - 1
Personalized Learning Path	4	Central Pennsylvania - 2



		Maryland - 2
Lay Worship Leader Training	4	Central Pennsylvania - 3 Bethlehem - 1
Lay Preacher Training	3	Central Pennsylvania - 2 Bethlehem - 1
Community and Continuing Education	35	Central Pennsylvania - 18 Unknown - 6 Pittsburgh - 2 Bethlehem, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Newark, Olympia, Rhode Island, Washington - 1 each

Anglican Studies Certificate Program with Lancaster Theological Seminary/Moravian University:

The Anglican Studies certificate partnership continues to be a program offered with Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian University. Lancaster and Moravian are currently undergoing a consolidation process, where there is no set outcome and no clear vision as to how their consolidation will impact the Anglican Studies partnership with SSFM. No Anglican Studies students graduated in Spring 2022.

Currently, there are three Anglican Studies students. Dioceses of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Central Pennsylvania are each sponsoring one student respectively. Two students are on track to graduate with the Anglican Studies certificate in May 2023.

Anglican Studies Seminar with United Lutheran Seminary:

A new experimental partnership for the 2022-23 academic year is with the Anglican Studies program at United Lutheran Seminary. Three students (Dioceses of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna Synod) will enroll in at least four SSFM-offered Anglican Studies courses during the academic year. There will be an assessment of this experiment at the end of the year, evaluating the student experience and the long-term viability of the collaboration.

Collaborative Mission Center and Lower Susquehanna Synod:

The Collaborative Mission Center, along with the LearnDash platform has sunsetted. This valuable online learning community had created a partnership between the Lower Susquehanna Synod and SSFM. The synod continues to support the offerings of SSFM. The Revs. Marsha Roscoe and Richard Jorgensen continue to teach for SSFM and provide an ecumenical bridge to our full communion partners.

Community and Continuing Education:

SSFM is committed to providing continuing education and community-focused courses.



Spring 2022 included multiple workshops that were part of the vocational Learning Weekends. The Rev. Dr. Gina Campbell and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson provided content that stretched beyond the vocation formation community.

In Fall 2022, the experiment of midday, midweek continuing-education focused classes were launched. Dr. Joshua Davis' *Violence, War, and Christian Peacemaking* course has twelve students enrolled. There was a marketing and publicity push on Episcopal News Service (ENS), on FORMA, and through the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

Other Fall community and continuing education offerings included *Make Me an Instrument of Peace: Civil Discourse Training* and *Building Intentional Small Groups: Facilitator Training*, led by Alan Yarborough and Miriam McKenney, respectively.

Vital and Effective Leadership Institute (VELI):

Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem are partnering to offer this two-year cohort experience to newly ordained and new to the diocese clergy. Coordinated by diocesan staff, Central Pennsylvania's The Rev. Canon Chris Streeter, Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan and Bethlehem's The Rev. Canons Melinda Artman and Barbara Harrison Seward, there has been a cross-diocesan effort to form a colleague group. Spanning two years of planned programming, these monthly Zoom meetings create opportunities for worship, collegiality and topic-focused discussion.

In 2022-23, there are seven participants from Bethlehem and ten participants from Central Pennsylvania. A new addition this year are six mentors, three from each diocese, to support, encourage and provide as resources for the group of seventeen. The Revs. Andrew Van Buren, Tim Alleman, Dale Granfield, John Harwood, Janis Yskamp, and Kyle Murphy are all supporting this new iteration of VELI.

Many thanks to the Rev. Canon David Lovelace who coordinated VELI for many years!

2022 Staffing:

December 2021 witnessed many changes in the SSFM staffing. The Rev. Michael Nailor retired as the part-time Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after his two-year stint. The Very Rev. Robyn Szoke-Coolidge retired from her position as Dean of Stevenson School for Ministry after seven years.

In January 2022, Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan started as SSFM Dean and Dr. Collin Cornell began as Associate Dean. For orientation, Chris Keeney, Michael Nailor and Robyn Szoke-Coolidge all assisted to help Stonesifer Boylan and Cornell with their new roles.

In July 2022, Cornell announced his intention to leave his part-time SSFM Associate Dean role. Shortly after, Keeney also made the decision to leave his SSFM Tech Assistant position. Both were able to stay on as consultants for a limited number of hours per month to help with the transition.

In August 2022, Stonesifer Boylan shifted job duties and responsibilities to reflect the current needs of SSFM and needed leadership and assistance. The two part-time, hourly positions were modified: Associate Dean and Registrar and SIS/LMS Manager. The Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra was hired as the associate dean, and Rachel Holm was



hired as the SIS/LMS Manager. Associate Dean Zerra and Registrar Holm, supported by Dr. Cornell and Keeney will cover the Dean's maternity leave in Fall 2022.

SSFM Advisory Board:

There have been four Stevenson School for Ministry Board Meetings, with The Rev. Canon David Lovelace as Chair. The meetings were held in December 2021, February, June, and September 2022. The Very Rev. Robyn Szoke-Coolidge's last meeting as dean was in December 2021.

The Advisory Board membership: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, the Rev. Canon David Lovelace, the Rev. Michael Nailor, Ms. Jane Gable, the Rev. Bradley Mattson, Mr. Rob Box, the Rev. Dr. David Zwifka, the Rev. Carlos de la Torre, Ms. Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, Dr. Vanessa Lovelace, and the Rev. Canon Jay Geisler.

The Advisory Board supported the Dean Search Committee and assisted with the transition of Dean Szoke-Coolidge into retirement. The quarterly meetings provide a sounding board for both spiritual formation curriculum and the on-going partnership and expansion opportunities presented before SSFM.

Mr. Rob Box, Treasurer for SSFM, has continued to engage us in financial development as he works with the Diocesan finance committee and our Canon for Finance Chad Linder to develop a budget and budget trajectory to stabilize SSFM.

SSFM Financials Overview:

- 2023 SSFM Budget submitted and approved by the Finance Committee and Council of Trustees.
- SSFM is ahead of budget for calendar year 2022.
 - Increased collections of accounts receivable.
 - Solid student enrollment.
 - One-time website development expense.
- Positioned to break even by 2025.
- Next few months will provide time for the research and comparison of the faculty compensation and student fees to improve cost structure.

Check out our web page for more information <u>https://diocesecpa.org/stevensonschoolforministry/</u>, and we encourage everyone to sign up for a course.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan, Dean of the Stevenson School for Ministry, <u>sboylan@diocesecpa.org</u> The Rev. Canon David Lovelace, chair, SSFM Advisory Board