



## 2023 Stevenson School for Ministry Annual 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 Dioceses of West Virginia, Maryland, and 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.

### 2022-23 Class Term Enrollments

Term	Dates	Total Enrollments
Winter 2022 Term	November 7, 2022 - February 3, 2023	30
Spring 2023 Term	February 14 - April 28, 2023	36
Summer 2023 Term	May 22 - August 4, 2023	24
Fall 2023 Term	August 22 - October 28, 2023	60
Winter 2023 Term	November 6, 2023 - February 2, 2024 *includes Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks	Registration ends in November

### Cohort Enrollment in Fall Term 2023 \*as of September 27, 2023

Program	Total Students	Student Dioceses
Priesthood Certificate	3	Central Pennsylvania - 1 Pittsburgh - 1 Maryland - 1
Diaconate Certificate	2	Central Pennsylvania - 2
Discernment	4	Central Pennsylvania - 4
Personalized Learning Path	3	Central Pennsylvania - 2 Pittsburgh - 1
Lay Worship Leader Training, Lay Preacher Training	19	Central Pennsylvania - 2 Delaware - 14 Bethlehem, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, Pittsburgh - 1 each
Community and Continuing Education	28	Central Pennsylvania - 21 Bethlehem - 2 Newark, Delaware, Virgin Islands, Alabama, unknown - 1 each



### **Roanridge Grant**

In February 2023, Stevenson was awarded a churchwide \$25,000 Roanridge Grant for the SSFM-supported *Revitalizing and Supporting Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders*. Roanridge Grants fund the training of town and country clergy and rural Christian workers of The Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church Canons provide for lay licensure for preaching and worship leading. Facing the realities of dwindling financial resources, limited clergy supply, and geographically dispersed congregations - the need for licensed lay ministry leaders is incredibly vital. This grant will teach new lay ministers and equip currently-licensed lay leaders through robust online courses and cohort learning experiences. In partnership with the dioceses of Bethlehem, Maryland, and Pittsburgh, this grant is funding a curriculum review, cohort program development, facilitators, and underwriting costs to equip a new generation of lay leaders to gather our faith communities in prayer and worship.

### **Anglican Studies Certificate Program with Lancaster Theological Seminary/Moravian Theological Seminary and Anglican Studies Seminar with United Lutheran Seminary:**

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, with a new, joint, integrated M.Div. curriculum announced in the upcoming 2023 year's end. There were two Anglican Studies graduates in May 2023. There are currently no Anglican Studies students enrolled at Lancaster/Moravian.

The 2022-23 experiment of an Anglican Studies Seminar with United Lutheran Seminary went well! The students completed their selected courses during the previous academic year. There is continued hope and exploration for more students to take SSFM classes as a part of their ULS academics when the need arises again. ULS operates on quarters/semesters, while SSFM operates under trimesters/terms to mirror the current Lancaster Seminary term academic year structure.

### **Community and Continuing Education:**

SSFM is committed to providing continuing education and community-focused courses. All vocational courses can always be taken for not-for-credit learning.

In November 2022, *Borderlands of Theological Education* book launch provided an online reading and writer panel for SSFM instructors, Dr. Joshua Davis and Dr. Deirdre Good who were the editors of this newly-published volume.

Spring 2023, SSFM offered *The Theology of Disability*, the Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra leading, with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan as a guest speaker. *Sober Hospitality* with the Rev. Erin Jean Warde bridged the gap between her book, *Sober Spirituality* and how we can be a welcoming community for those struggling with alcohol addiction.

In Fall 2023, Dr. Joshua Davis led *The Whole Creation Groans: Preaching Good News in the Age of Climate Change*.



# The Stevenson School for Ministry

Coming up for community and continuing education includes *Sober Spirituality*, a 10-week course with the Rev. Erin Jean Warde, *Ending Well: How to Prepare for End of Life* with the Rev. Dr. Adam Trambley, and *There's a Voice in the Wilderness: An Advent Wreath of Hymns* for an Advent exploration with the Rev. Becky Zartman. In Spring 2024, the Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra will provide a *How to Pray* multi-week journey.

## **Vital and Effective Leadership Institute (VELI):**

Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem continue to partner to offer this two-year cohort experience to newly ordained and new-to-the-diocese clergy. Coordinated by diocesan staff, Central Pennsylvania's 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. Topics include, but are not limited to, entering/leaving well, budgets, family systems, leadership styles, and family systems.

In 2022-23, there were six Central Pennsylvania participants who completed the two-year cohort.

In 2023-24, there are fourteen participants from Bethlehem and six from Central Pennsylvania. There are four mentors, two from each diocese, to support, encourage, and provide resources for the group of seventeen—the Revs. Tim Alleman, Dale Granfield, John Harwood, and Janis Yskamp all support these cross-diocesan efforts for VELI.

Many thanks to the Rev. Canon Chris Streeter, who helped to shepherd VELI during the 2022-23 program year before leaving his post at the diocese!

## **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 2022, February, June, and October 2023.

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 (resigned due to new call), Ms. Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, Dr. Vanessa Lovelace, and the Rev. Canon Jay Geisler (resigned due to retirement). The slight by-laws update provide for diocesan and organizational partners to be added to the advisory board, so a representative board can provide a full-picture of the needs and visions of our extended learning community.

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:**

- 2024 SSFM Budget was submitted and approved by the Finance Committee and Council of Trustees.
- SSFM is ahead of budget for the calendar year 2023.



# The Stevenson School *for* Ministry

- Solid student enrollment.
- Lower than budgeted instructional costs. Offset of grant funds.
- SSFM broke even in the 2022 budget year.
  - With the current spending and budget, SSFM seems positioned to continue doing so in 2023, excluding the dean's compensation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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The Rev. Canon David Lovelace, chair, SSFM Advisory Board