

This combination of pastoral and academic resources proved effective in the period of the early Church, during the Reformation, and in periods of general awakening to supply churches with able leadership for trying times.

In March, 1983, the Delmarva (now Potomac Presbytery and Chesapeake Presbytery) Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America established the Chesapeake Christian Training Center and Chesapeake Theological Seminary as institutions for training lay leaders and for the preparation of men and women to assume a variety of callings in local church ministry. Local theologians and qualified pastors and lay leaders were enlisted to teach and assist in carrying out the mission of the ministry. The first students graduated in 1986. Since then over one hundred graduates have gone forth to serve the Lord as pastors, church planters, and leaders in church and Para-church ministries, for the equipping of church members for lives of ministry that build local congregations up in unity and maturity in Jesus Christ.

Chesapeake Theological Seminary's ministry has expanded from its 1983 bases in the Greater Baltimore, Greater Washington (including Northern Virginia), and Greater Wilmington, Delaware, areas to include now a center in the Annapolis, Maryland area, Bayside area in New York as well. In addition, Chesapeake's innovative training now allows it to reach beyond the Chesapeake Region to students in virtually any part of the country with effective pastoral training via a combination of innovative training techniques.

In the fall of 1999, Chesapeake Theological Seminary was combined into Reformed Theological Seminary to provide better programs. The Chesapeake's Korean Program that was established in 1992 has now succeeded the former Chesapeake Theological Seminary as Chesapeake Reformed Theological Seminary, starting in the fall of 2002. From the spring of 2013, the official name is Chesapeake Theological Seminary.

Chesapeake students come from a wide range of denominational backgrounds including Presbyterian, Reformed Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Independent, Pentecostal, Assemblies of God, and Roman Catholic. Chesapeake Seminary maintains a decidedly Reformed theological orientation; thus, it extends a warm hand of Christian fellowship and collaboration to individuals from various evangelical bodies. The emphasis on building a sound Biblical foundation, providing intensive training in the development of practical ministry skills, and cultivating a Biblical world view, together with a commitment to maximum flexibility and freedom in matters of denominational structure and distinctives, enable Chesapeake Theological Seminary to serve across a broad spectrum of the evangelical community.