Word, Spirit and the Renewal of the Church:
Believers’ Church, Ecumenical and Global Perspectives

Sept. 14-16, 2017 | Goshen College
Conference contacts:
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Emergency contacts:
Emergency – 911
Non-Emergency Dispatch Center (Fire/Police) – 574.533.4151
Goshen Hospital – 574.364.1000 (200 High Park Ave Goshen, IN 46526)
Urgent Care: US HealthWorks Medical Group – 574.537.1709
(2014 Lincolnway E, Goshen, IN 46256)

Pharmacy:
CVS Pharmacy – 574.533.2510 (410 S. Main Street, Goshen, IN 46526)

Wifi Access: Network: GC Guest | Enter your email address to login

ATMs: Located in east hallway of the Union Building

Campus Bookstore: Monday – Friday | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Meals: Breakfast will be on your own. All other meals, except for the banquet on Friday evening, are included in your registration and will be in Westlawn Dining Hall. Pre-registration is required for the banquet, which will be held in the CMC Fellowship Hall.

Westlawn Dining Hall opens at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays; 10 a.m. on Saturday; and 8 a.m. on Sunday

The Leaf Raker (campus snackshop) is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and has various prepared and made-to-order options available for purchase.

Martin’s Supermarket (fresh doughnuts; deli bar; Starbucks Coffee) is a short walk from the campus, east on College Avenue.

Goshen Hospital has a cafeteria open to the public.

Java Junction, located in the Connector, also serves beverages and baked goods. They are open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and from 7:30 – 11:30 p.m.; weekends from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Videos & Photography: Any photos or videography taken at the conference by Goshen College photographers may appear in printed documents, video productions, or on the Goshen College website. We appreciate your consent to use these photos for the purpose of sharing and promoting the conference. If you wish not to appear in any photographs or videos related to the conference please make your wishes known to the conference organizers.

Local Points of Interest:
MennoHof (510 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, IN 46565; open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.): a non-profit information center located in Shipshewana, Indiana — the heart of “Amish County” — that teaches visitors about the faith and life of Amish and Mennonites.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN, 46517)
Mennonite Church USA Church Offices and Archives (3145 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN, 46517)

For additional landmarks in the Goshen area, including restaurants, see the sheet in your registration folder.
Welcome to the 18th Believers' Church Conference, *Word, Spirit, and the Renewal of the Church: Believers' Church, Ecumenical and Global Perspectives*. Goshen College and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary are honored to host this conference as we seek to explore the gifts and tensions of the Reformation legacy for the Believers’ Church tradition.

This fall marks the culmination of a decade-long series of events commemorating the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, popularly associated with Martin Luther and his “Ninety-Five Theses Against the Sale of Indulgences” nailed to the church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. These commemorations have been the occasion for numerous celebratory events honoring the legacy of the Protestant Reformation. But they have also sparked a lively debate about the Reformation itself, the divided nature of the church, and the challenges of collective memory. For groups who identify most closely with the Radical Reformation, the commemorations are especially problematic. On the one hand, those in the Believers’ Church tradition owe a great debt to the early reformers—most of the first Anabaptist leaders, for example, were deeply shaped by the “evangelical” writings of Luther and Zwingli. Yet many of the reformers continued to defend infant baptism and the emerging logic of a “state church,” along with the violent repression of Christian minorities who disagreed in matters of belief and practice.

These groups, all with direct or indirect ties to the Radical Reformation, are by no means uniform in belief and practice. But they share a common conviction that God does not coerce faith—that disciples of Jesus have the capacity to respond voluntarily to the free gift of God’s grace. The collective term “Believers’ Church” seems to have first emerged in the context of a study conference in 1955 in Chicago, Illinois. But the term became more firmly established in church and academic circles following a large conference on “The Concept of the Believers Church” held in 1967 at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

Donald Durnbaugh, in a landmark book published the following year (*The Believers’ Church: The History and Character of Radical Protestantism*), summarized the characteristics of believers’ churches as follows: scriptural authority; discipleship to Christ as Lord; regenerate church membership; covenant of voluntarily-gathered believers; adult baptism; separation from the world; mutual aid and Christian service; and a nonorganizational view of church unity. The denominational families frequently associated within this tradition include: Baptists, Brethren in Christ, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Churches of Christ, Churches of God, Friends, Mennonites, Pentecostals, and others.

The momentum created by the Louisville conference led to a series of further conferences, with guidance coming largely from a loosely organized Committee of Continuing Conversations, coordinated by John Howard Yoder and Donald F. Durnbaugh. A list of all the Believers’ Church conferences can be found in your conference folder.

We hope that recent efforts to revive the Believers’ Church Conference series will be encouraged by this gathering. We look forward to a vibrant exchange in the days ahead as we reflect together on “Word, Spirit, and the Renewal of the Church” from a global and ecumenical perspective. Thank you for your participation in this on-going conversation.

– John D. Roth,
on behalf of the Planning Committee
(Jamie Pitts, Safwat Marzouk, and Allison MacGregor)
Thursday, Sept. 14

4-9 p.m.
Registration
Music Center Lobby

5-6:30 p.m.
Supper (on your own)

7 p.m.
Opening Worship / Hymn Sing
Music Center, Reith Recital Hall
Worship Leaders: James and Barbara Nelson Gingerich, Rebecca Slough, Leonard Beechy, Shirley Sprunger King

8:30 p.m.
Informal Reception
Music Center Lobby

9:30-11:00 p.m.
Late night conversations
Java Junction

Friday, Sept. 15

7-8:30 a.m.
Breakfast (on your own)

8:00 a.m.
Registration
Umble Center Lobby

8:30-10:00 a.m.
Paper Session #1
The Spirit and Renewal
Union 111
Chair: Gayle Gerber Koontz

Musa Mambula
(Bethany Theological Seminary)
“Healing, Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Speaking in Tongues”

Peter Goerzen
(Bethel (KS) College)
“Word and Spirit in Renewal: Current Pentecostal/Charismatic Hermeneutical Discussions in Conversation with Anabaptist Interpretation of the Bible”

Joe Sawatzky
(Mennonite Mission Network)
“The Anabaptist Vision and the Primal Imagination”

The Unity of the Church
AD 28
Chair: David Cramer

Stephen Weaver
(Lancaster Mennonite Conference)
“Anabaptist Tensions with the Eschatological Imperative of John 17:20-23”

Paul H Martens
(Baylor University)
“Partakers of the Table of the Lord and the Table of Devils: Slow Violence and the Questionable Unity of the Believers’ Church”

Tom Yoder Neufeld
(Conrad Grebel University College)
“Unsettled Peace: the Unity of the Spirit”

Systematic and Philosophical Theologies
CC 141/142
Chair: Karl Koop

Malcolm Yarnell
(Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)
“Philip Riedemann on God as Trinity”

Allison MacGregor
(Assemblies of God Theological Seminary)
“Miroslav Volf, Koinonia, and the Free Church: A Pentecostal Perspective”

Jeremy Garber
(Iliff School of Theology)
“Weird like Jesus Together: Using Philosophy to Understand the Holy Spirit Theologically”

Roundtable Discussion —
Dennis D. Engbrecht, With Christ at the Helm: The Story of Bethel College
(Bethel Publishing House, 2017)
CC 143/144
Moderator: Tim Erdel

Dennis Engbrecht
(Bethel College / Mishawaka)

Jared Burkholder
(Grace College)

Perry Bush
(Bluffton University)

David Swartz
(Asbury University)

10:00-10:30 a.m.
Coffee Break
Umble Center Lobby
10:30-12:00 a.m.  
Plenary Session  
Umble Center  
Moderator: John D. Roth  
Welcome: Jo-Ann Brant  
(Goshen College, Interim Academic Dean)  

Joel Carpenter  
(Calvin College)  
“Christian Thinking in an Age of World Christianity: How Do Word and Spirit Questions Travel?”

12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Lunch  
Westlawn Dining Hall  

1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Paper Session #2  
Wrestling the Word  
Union 111  
Chair: Safwat Marzouk

Benjamin Bixler  
(Drew University)  
“The Believers Church Christocentrism and the Hebrew Bible”

John Kampen  
(Methodist Theological School in Ohio)  
“The Gospel of Matthew and the Challenge of Antisemitism”

Mary Schertz  
(Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)  
“Harsh Times/Harsh Texts: The Spirit and Sexualized Violence in the Church”

The Nature of the Church  
AD 28  
Chair: Allison MacGregor

Ted Grimsrud  
(Eastern Mennonite University)  
“Is the ‘Benedict Option’ a Believers’ Church Option?”

Charles Moore  
(Bruderhof Community)  
“All Things Common and the Work of the Spirit: Descriptive, Prescriptive or Paradigmatic?”

Ryan Gladwin  
(Palm Beach Atlantic University)  
“Bonino and Latin American Baptist and Anabaptist Understandings of the Church”

Peace Theologies  
CC 143/144  
Chair: Keith Graber Miller

W. Derek Suderman  
(Conrad Grebel University College)  
“Seeking Shalom as the End of Lament”

Ted Koontz  
(Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)  
“Grace to You and Peace: Marks of a Gospel of Peace for Our Time”

Timothy Colegrove  
(Boston University School of Theology)  
“Representing the Sacrifice: Lessons from Aquinas on Nonviolence and Sacramental Vocation”

3:00-3:30 p.m.  
Coffee Break  
Umble Center Lobby  

3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Paper Session #3  
Panel: The Nonviolent Word of God  
CC 141/142  
Chair: Gerald Mast

Gerald Mast  
(Bluffton University)  
“The Word of God in the Ausbund: The Bible as Ground and Gift”

Walt Paquin  
(Bluffton University)  
“The Word of God in the Swiss Brethren Concordance: The Bible as Rule and Resource”
Jackie Wyse-Rhodes  
*(Bluffton University)*  
“The Word of God and the Apocrypha: The Bible as Wisdom and Wit”

J. Denny Weaver  
*(Bluffton University)*  
“The Word of God in Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: The Bible as Story and Signpost”

Panel: *The Holy Spirit as Divine Reality in the Mission of the Church, II*  
CC143/144  
Chair: Sharon Norton

Sungbin Kim  
*(AMBS/South Korea)*

Naun Cerrato  
*(AMBS/Honduras)*

Luis Tapia  
*(AMBS/Chile)*

Ron Moya  
*(AMBS/Whitestone MC — Zimbabwe)*

Discernment and Reformation  
Union 111  
Chair: Hyung Jin Kim Sun

Jay McCumber  
*(Teaching the Word Ministries)*  
“Building For Reformation: Returning To An Identity-Based Ecclesiology”

John Schrock  
*(Independent scholar)*  
“Spiritual Leadership and the Missional Church”

Rafael Zaracho  
*(Instituto Bíblico Asunción)*  
“The Community of Discernment as a Paradigm for Continual Reform”

Politics and Ethics  
AD 28  
Chair: Malinda Berry

Anthony Siegrist  
*(Ottawa Mennonite Church)*  
“Word, Spirit and National Entanglements: Mission and Assimilation in Ontario’s ‘Mennonite Indian Residential Schools’”

Justin Heinzekehr  
*(Goshen College)*  
“The Bread, the Wine, and Donald Trump: The Relevance of Reformation Sacrament Debates for 21st-Century Politics”

Andrew Suderaman  
*(Eastern Mennonite University)*  
“Believers Church and the (Counter) Political: The Promise of Anabaptist Ecclesiology in the South African Context”

6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Banquet*  
*advanced registration required

Welcome – Ken Newbold *(Goshen College Interim President)*  
Prayer – Safwat Marzouk *(AMBS)*

7:30-9:00 p.m.  
Plenary Session/Yoder Public Affair Lecture  
College Mennonite Church Sanctuary  
Moderator: Sara Wenger Shenk *(AMBS, President)*

Miroslav Volf  
*(Yale Divinity School)*  
“Humility and Joy: What We Can Still Learn From Martin Luther”

9:30-11:00 p.m.  
Late night conversations  
Java Junction

Saturday, Sept. 16

7-8:30 a.m.  
Breakfast (on your own)

8:30-10:00 a.m.  
Paper Session #4  
The Bible and the Reformation(s)  
CC 110  
Chair: Paul Keim

Ben Ollenberger  
*(Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)*  
“For the Sake of Scripture:’ Commemorating and Commending the Reformation(s)”

Loren Johns  
*(Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)*  
“Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture”

Michael Whitlock  
*(Truett McConnell University)*  
“The Divine Word, Powerful, Authoritative and Strong: Word and Spirit in Hubmaier”
Movements of Renewal
CC 112
Chair: John D. Roth

Karl Koop  
(Canadian Mennonite University)  
“Word and Spirit: An Ongoing Dynamic in Anabaptism”

Joseph Pfeiffer  
(Fuller Theological Seminary)  
“The Dynamics of Evangelical Renewal Movements among Historic Believers Church Traditions: The Case of the Evangelical Friends Church”

Doug Foster  
(Abilene Christian University)  
“From American Tradition to World Church: The Stone-Campbell Movement as a Case Study in Globalization”

Politics and Ethics
CC 141/142
Chair: Ted Koontz

Jason Moyer  
(Malone University)  
“17th-Century Dutch Mennonite Intercession on Behalf of the Swiss Anabaptists: A Perspective on Contemporary Debates Regarding LGBT and Religious Rights”

Janna L Hunter-Bowman  
(Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)  
“Political Theology and Peacebuilding: Is a Nonviolent Eschatology of Peace and Change Viable?”

David C. Cramer  
(Keller Park Missionary Church)  
“Pacifism, Perspicuity, and Pervasive Interpretive Pluralism: Reconsidering the Role of Scripture in Anabaptist Apologetics”

Panel: Can These Bones Live? Faith in a Secular Age
CC 143/144
Chair: Jan Shetler

Richard Kauffman  
(Christian Century)  
“Can we still speak ‘Christian’? Testimony as the Primary Language of Faith”

Phil Waite  
(College Mennonite Church)  
“Enchantment or Sacrament: Celebrating a World Animated by the Life of the Holy Spirit”

Sara Wenger Shenk  
(AMBS)  
“Re-Enchanting Primal, Communal Faith Language”

Panel: Martyr Narratives in Anabaptist Faith Formation
Wyse 123
Moderator: Rose Stutzman

Sarah Ann Bixler  
(Princeton Theological Seminary)  

Crusito Cordero  
(Cross Movement Records)  

Robert Yoder  
(Goshen College)  

David Weaver-Zercher  
(Messiah College)  

10:00-10:30 a.m.  
Coffee Break  
Umble Center Lobby

10:30-12:00  
Plenary Session  
Umble Center  
Moderator: Jamie Pitts (AMBS)

Nancy Bedford  
(Garrett-Evangelical Theol. Seminary)  
“A Narrow Gate? Proceeding by the Spirit along the Way of Jesus”

12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Lunch  
Westlawn Dining Hall

1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Paper Session #5  
Witness and Secularity
CC 110  
Chair: Jamie Pitts

Emily Ralph Servant  
(EMS / Uni. of Manchester)  
“Source, Expression, Energy: Mission in the Believers Church”

Hyung Jin Kim Sun  
(Emmanuel College / Uni. of Toronto)  
“Non-triumphalist Engagement of the Churches in a Post-Secular Society”
**Race and Feminism**

CC 112  
Chair: Janna L. Hunter-Bowman

**J. Denny Weaver**  
(*Bluffton University*)  
“Black and White Believers Churches: the Importance of Dialogue”

**James Gorman**  
(*Johnson University*)  
“Evangelical Revivalism and Race Relations in the Early Second Great Awakening”

**Reta Finger**  
(*Eastern Mennonite University*)  
“Christian Feminism Today: Evangelical and Ecumenical”

**Ecumenism and the Believers’ Churches Today**

CC 141/142  
Chair: Paul Martens

**Maxwell Kennel**  
(*McMaster University*)  
“Ecumenism, Secularity, and the Gospel of All Creatures”

**Scott Holland**  
(*Bethany Theological Seminary*)  
“The Spirit of Just Peace & The Letter of Just War: The Believers Church and a New Ecumenical Paradigm”

**Teun van der Leer**  
(*Baptist Seminary VU-University Amsterdam*)  
“The Ambitions of the First Believers’ Church Conference and our Present Calling”

**Panel: Believers’ Church Commentary Series: Past, Present, and Future**

CC143/144  
Chair: Ted Grimsrud

**Loren Johns**  
(*AMBS*)  
“Perspectives from the Series Editor”

**Paul Keim**  
(*Goshen College*)  
“Perspectives from a Commentary Writer (Job)”

**Mary Schertz**  
(*AMBS*)  
“Perspectives from a Commentary Writer (Luke)”

**Theron Schlabach**  
(*Goshen College*)  
“Perspectives from an Appreciative Reader”

3:00-3:30 p.m.  
**Coffee Break**  
*Umble Center Lobby*

3:30-5:00 p.m.  
**Future Directions of Believers’ Churches... and the Believers’ Church Conference Series**  
*Umble Center*

**Listening Session**  
Moderator: Bill Brackney  
(*ACBAS / Acadia University*)

5:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Supper**  
*Westlawn Dining Hall*

7:00-8:30 p.m.  
**Closing Plenary Worship Service**  
*Umble Center*

Moderator: Alan Rudy-Froese (*AMBS*)  
Worship leaders: Lane Miller and SaeJin Lee

**Frank A. Thomas**  
(*Christian Theological Seminary*)  

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**Sunday, Sept. 17**

8:00 a.m.  
**Breakfast** (for those in the dorms)  
*Westlawn Dining Hall*

9:30-12:00 a.m.  
**Worship at an area church**  
(see registration folder for a list of options)
Plenary Speakers

Joel A. Carpenter
Professor of history at Calvin College and director of Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity

A highly-regarded historian of American religion and culture, Carpenter’s more recent focus has been on the history of Christianity in Africa and Asia, with a particular emphasis on Christian higher education in the global church. As director of the Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity, a research and faculty development agency of Calvin College, he worked with the officers of the John Templeton Foundation to develop grant-making programs in theology and in the social sciences for African scholars.

Miroslav Volf
Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology, Yale University Divinity School

Volf is a Croatian Protestant theologian and public intellectual who has been described as “one of the most celebrated theologians of our day.” In addition to his well-known Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation (1996) Volf is the author of numerous books on themes of reconciliation, hermeneutics, truth-telling and memory, interfaith relations, and globalization. He is the founder and director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

Nancy Bedford
Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL)

Equally at home in Argentina and the United States, Bedford has lectured and published widely in the fields of global feminism, Latin American theologies, theologies in migration, intersectionality and the problems of whiteness, liberating readings of Scripture. Bedford, who has both Baptist and Anabaptist confessional orientations, is a member of Reba Place Church in Evanston (Mennonite).

Frank A. Thomas
Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics and Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, IN)

An ordained minister and renowned teacher of preachers, Thomas is the CEO of Hope For Life International (former publisher of The African American Pulpit) and a member of the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College. He also serves as a member of the International Board of Societas Homiletica, an international society of teachers. A revised and expanded version of his classic text on homiletics, They Like to Never Quit Praisin’ God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching, appeared in 2013.
Planning Committee:

John D. Roth (Goshen College)
Jamie Pitts (AMBS)
Safwat Marzouk (AMBS)
Allison MacGregor (Assemblies of God Theological Seminary)

with special thanks to:
Grant Miller
Ted Koontz

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