



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
SEMINARY  
OF THE WEST

## Curriculum Vitae

**Rev. Dr. James E. Brenneman**

Mailing Address: 2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Phone: (510) 841-1905 x.246

Email: [jbrenneman@absw.edu](mailto:jbrenneman@absw.edu)

### I. Education

#### **Ph.D., 1994**

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA  
(Hebrew Bible/Old Testament)

#### **Master of Arts, 1991**

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA  
(Religious Studies)

#### **Master of Divinity, 1982**

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA  
(Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, '79-80)

#### **Bachelor of Arts, 1977**

Goshen College, Goshen, IN  
(Interdisciplinary: Biology, Natural Science, Bible)

### II. Employment History

**2017-present** President of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA

**2006-2017** President of Goshen College, Goshen, IN.

**1986-2006** (Founding) Lead Pastor, Pasadena Mennonite Church, Pasadena, CA

**1992-2006** Old Testament Faculty, Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, CA  
Adjunct Faculty, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA

**1995-2006** Adjunct Professor of OT, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA

**2001-2002** Visiting Faculty, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA

- 2000-2001** Adjunct Faculty, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN
- 1983-1986** Senior Associate, Leadership Development/Urban Ministries, World Vision U.S., Monrovia, CA
- 1982-1983** Associate Director, Conference on the Church and Peacemaking in the Nuclear Age, Pasadena, CA

### **III. Other Experience**

- 2017-present** Governing Board, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
- 2018** Project Interchange Seminary Presidents/Deans trip to Israel/Palestine
- 2016-2017** Governing Board, Council of Independent Colleges, Wash. D.C.
- 2015** Participated in White House Climate Change Roundtable at invitation of President Obama in preparation for UN Climate Conference in Paris
- 2015-2017** Governing Board, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, San Antonio, TX
- 2013-2017** Board Member, Horizon Education Alliance, Elkhart, IN
- 2012-2017** Board Member, Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County, Elkhart, IN
- 2012** President's Circle Host of 3-week educational trip to Israel/Palestine/Jordan
- 2008** President's Circle Host of 3-week educational trip to Egypt/UAE
- 2007** Founding Signatory of American College and University President's Climate Commitment
- 2006-2017** Member of Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Goshen, IN
- 2006-2017** Governing Board Member, Independent Colleges of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN (Executive Committee, 2010-2013)
- 2006-2017** Council of Presidents, Crossroads League, NAIA, Indianapolis, IN (Chair, 2013-2016)
- 2006-2017** Member of Rotary International, Goshen Club, Goshen, IN
- 2001** Scholar/Pastor-in-Residence, Goshen College, Goshen, IN

- 1999-2002** Member of Council on Faith, Life and Strategy, Mennonite Church USA
- 1999** Jerusalem Seminar, Israel/Palestine with Mennonite World Conference
- 1998-2001** Founder, President of the Board, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, Los Angeles, CA
- 1997-2000** Co-Leader, Religion and Science Dialogue, Cal Tech, Pasadena, CA
- 1991-2002** Pastoral Leadership Commission, Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1989-1994** Mennonite Board of Missions, (ECD Committee), Elkhart, IN
- 1986-2005** Field Education Pastoral Intern (Site) Supervisor, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
- 1986-present** Ordained Minister of Mennonite Church USA
- 1981-present** Member, Society of Biblical Literature
- 1977** Middle East Bible Seminar, Goshen College, Israel/Jordan
- 1974** Goshen College Study-Service Term, Honduras, Central America

#### **IV. Publications (Books/Articles)**

##### **Books**

- 2004** *On Jordan's Stormy Banks: Lessons from the Book of Deuteronomy.* PA and Ont.: Herald Press
- 1997** *Canons in Conflict: Negotiating Texts in True and False Prophecy.* NY/Oxford: Oxford University Press

##### **Articles (select)**

- 2019** "A Word About. . . Abolitionist Mamas and a New Emancipation Proclamation," *Economic Enslavement: Review & Expositor: An International Baptist Journal*, Feb 2019, 116:1, PA: Sheridan Press
- 2015** Book Review, "*The Violence of Scripture: Overcoming the Old Testament's Troubling Legacy.* by Eric A. Siebert. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2012, in *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*, Oct. 2015, 654-657

- 2012** “True and False Prophecy,” *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*, eds Mark J. Boda and J. Gordon McConville, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press
- 2011** “Turning the Tables: War, Peace and the Last Supper,” in *Compassionate Eschatology: The Future as Friend*, eds. Ted Grimsrud and Michael Hardin, OR: Cascade Books, 101-115
- “Sequencing Allegiances: Idolatry and the One God,” *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology*, Spg 2011, 12:1, 5-13
- Forward to Revised Edition *God’s Healing Strategy, Revised Edition*. Ted Grimsrud. Telford, PA: Cascadia Publishing House
- 2008** “Emergent Mind in the Garden of Good and Evil: The Evolution of Moral Intelligence and the Age of Accountability,” Religion and Science Conference of the Midwest, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI
- “Living by the Word: Reflections on the Lectionary, Matt. 25:31-46 and Isaiah 64:1-9,” *Christian Century*, Nov. 18, 2009, 20-21
- 2007** Introduction to the Pentateuch and Introduction to the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy in *The Catholic College Study Bible*, MN: St. Mary’s Press
- 2006** “Missional Practice (Open Communion as Pedagogy & Invitation),” *Evangelical, Ecumenical, and Anabaptist Missiologies in Conversation*, eds. James R. Krabill, Walter Sawatsky, Charles E. Van Engen, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books
- 2000** “Debating Ahab: Characterization in Biblical Theology,” *Reading the Hebrew Bible for a New Millenium*, Vol. 1, eds. Wonil Kim, Deborah Ellens, Michael Floyd, Marvin Sweeney. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International
- “Day of Atonement,” “Hagar,” “Ishmael,” “Ishmaelites,” *Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*, ed. David Noel Freedman, Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company
- Forward to *God’s Healing Strategy: An Introduction to the Bible’s Main Themes*. Ted Grimsrud. Telford/Scottdale, PA: Pandora Press/Herald Press
- “Reading Joshua Backwards from Exile,” *What Mennonites are Thinking in 2000*. eds. Merle Good and Phyllis Pellman Good, PA: Good Books

- 1999** Book review of P.R. Davies, *Scribes and Schools* in *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. Fall issue, 114-116
- “Prophets in Conflict,” *Peace and Justice Shall Embrace: Power and Theopolitics in the Bible*. Telford/Scottsdale, PA: Pandora Press/Herald Press
- “Making Prophecy Come True: Human Responsibility for the End of the World,” *Apocalypticism & Millennialism: Shaping a Believers’ Church Eschatology for the 21st Century*. Telford/Scottsdale, PA: Pandora Press/Herald Press
- 1987-present** Many more theological/pastoral/column articles in *Goshen College Bulletin* and other Mennonite Church USA publications

## V. Presentations (select)

- 2019** “The Transforming Power of Higher Education,” Consultation on Envisioning North East Christian University, Manipur, India
- “Let Justice Roll Down Like a Mighty River,” Centennial Celebration of the Anal Naga Baptist Association, Chandel District, Manipur, India
- “Holy Ground, Holy Fire, Holy Name: Torah Spirituality for the Pastoral Soul” (3 lectures), Ministry Council of the Greater Bay Area Clergy & Spouse Retreat, Redwood Glen Retreat Center, Loma Mar, CA
- 2018** “Let There Be Light: Higher Education’s Charge to the Next Generation on Creating a Sustainable Future,” Green the Church National Summit 2018, Hayward, CA
- “How the Bible Came to Be,” ABC Churches of the Pacific Coast Sunday Forum.
- 2017** “Feeding Hungry Hearts: Let Us Keep the Feast,” Consecration Service of the Episcopal Bishop of Los Angeles, John Taylor, Dorothy Chandler Music Center, Los Angeles, CA
- “The Rise of the Nones: A Seminary’s Response,” ABSW Presidential Candidate of Choice Lecture to the ABSW community.
- 2016** “The Transformation of a Midwest Mennonite College: ¡Si, se, puede!,” Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Deans’ Forum, San Antonio, TX (2016); redux at Independent Colleges of Indiana Latino Higher Education Conference, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN (2017)

- “With Malice toward None and Charity toward All: Drawing Wide Our Circles” (Lecture 1) and “Lincoln’s Understanding of God’s Will and Human Responsibility: Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address” (Lecture 2), Chataqua-by-the-Sea, Ocean Park, ME
- 2015** “Leading for Change: The Pitfalls and Promise of a Campus Wide Intercultural Transformation Process at an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution,” (with Rebecca Hernandez and Anita Stalter). Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX
- 2014** “Confessions of a Reluctant Pacifist,” Chataqua-Winona Lake, Syracuse, IN
- 2012** “A Liberal Arts College is Good Business, Too: Town-Gown Partnerships as a Win-Win Deal,” Address to Goshen Chamber of Commerce
- 2011** “The Color of Purple, the Smell of a Rose: A Third Way for Bridging the Liberal-Conservative Divide,” Student Life Retreat, Manchester University, North Manchester, IN
- 2010** “From Pastor to President: Lessons in Leadership,” MCUSA Allegheny Conference Pastor Leadership Banquet, Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, PA
- 2009** “Moses and Manhood,” (3 Lectures), IN-MI Regional Men’s Retreat @ Camp Friedenswald, Cassopolis, MI
- 2007** “Many Faces of the Kingdom,” MCUSA Biennial Youth Convention Plenary, San Jose, CA
- “Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love,” MCUSA Biennial Delegate Assembly Plenary, San Jose, CA
- 2006** “Growing Wisdom and Grace: Inaugural Speech,” Goshen College, Goshen, IN
- 2006-present** Hundreds of other speeches, sermons, lectures in a variety of settings on and off campus as president of Goshen College and American Baptist Seminary of the West
- 2004** Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA (two lectures/May and October).
- 2003** Rocky Mountain Mennonite Conference (three lectures), Lakewood, CO
- 2002** Staley Lectures (on the Book of Exodus), Bethel College, Newton, KS

- 2001** Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem; Visiting and Resident Scholar's Forum: "The Living Covenant of Sinai" 2001 Pastors' Week, Allegheny Mennonite Conference, Laurellville, PA (eight lectures)
- 2000** "Canon Power: The Bible as a Crucible of Peace," Mennonite World Conference Peace Council, Guatemala, Central America
- Master's of Ministry Program, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA; Lectures: "Reading Joshua Backwards," "True and False Prophecy in Biblical Perspective," "Liberation for Conquest?"
- Eastern Mennonite University, Pastoral Leadership Week, Harrisonburg, Va.; Lectures (four): "Why Stand Here Gazing?: The End of the World As We Know It"
- 1999** Apocalypticism & Millennialism Conference, Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio; Paper: "Making Prophecy Come True: Human Responsibility for the End of the World."
- Subversive Holiness Conference, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA; Paper: "A Righteous Disobedience (Exodus 1:8-2:10)"
- Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, Idaho. Four plenary lectures  
1999 Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- 1997** Orlando '97: Mennonite Church General Assembly, Orlando, FL; Four plenary Bible studies on the book of Deuteronomy.
- 1995** Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, Pa.; Respondent to: *The Image of God: Gender Models in Judaeo-Christian Tradition*, ed. Kari Elisabeth Borresen (Contributors/Panelists: Phyllis Bird, Lone Fatum, Kari, Borresen, Rosemary Ruether)
- Pastors' Week, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN; Three lectures on the book of Genesis
- 1994** Rene Girard Colloquium, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN; Presenter: "The Scapegoat Mechanism in Canon Formation"; Respondent to: "A Rereading of Joshua" by Gordon Matties
- 1989** Southeast Mennonite Convention, Brooksville, FL Three plenary lectures.
- 1986-2006** Hundreds of sermons over a twenty year period available in digital format.

## **VI. Awards/Grants**

- 2017** James E. and Terri J. Brenneman Scholarship (for first generation Hispanic and Latinix students), Goshen College, Goshen IN.
- 2017** Alfredo G. De Los Santos Distinguished Leadership Award in Hispanic Higher Education from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Tempe, AZ
- 2001** National Clergy Renewal Program grant from Eli Lilly Foundation for Sabbatical Study in London/Jerusalem