

BERKELEY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

James E. Brenneman, PhD
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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)

Employment History

- 2017-present** President of the Berkeley School of Theology, 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

Other Experience

2017-present Governing Board, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

2018-present Advisory Board of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County

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, CA
- 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
- 1982-1983** Internship, Clergy & Laity Concerned (CALC)
- 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

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)

- 2022** "[There's Just Something About that Name](#): Why it's Better to be 'Jesus-Centered' than 'Christ-centered.'" In *Anabaptist World Magazine*, Feb. 2022.
- 2019** "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/Scottsdale, 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

Presentations (select)

- 2021** “Where to From Here: Panel on the Israel/Palestine,” for the Interfaith Council of Alameda County.
- 2020** “From Big to Small: Fundraising with Limited Resources,” Association of Theological Schools, Development and Institutional Advancement Professionals Conference, Jacksonville, FL.
- 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,” and “Future Plantings of the Lord,” ABC Churches of the Pacific Coast Sunday Forum and Plenary.
- “Partnership in Seminary Education,” J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Annual Lecture Series.
- 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, pueden!,” 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), Chautauqua-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,” Chautauqua-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 Berkeley School of Theology
- 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** Tantar 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.

Awards/Grants

2017 James E. and Terri J. Brenneman Scholarship (for first generation Hispanic and Latinio/a 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

2006 12.5 million dollar Intercultural Transformational Grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. for Goshen College

2001 National Clergy Renewal Program grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. for Sabbatical Study in London/Jerusalem