

Curriculum Vitae

BEN C. OLLENBURGER

Address

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 3003 Benham Ave.,
Elkhart, IN 46517 (574)-296-6205
Residence: 18 St. Joseph Manor, Elkhart, IN 46516
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Personal

Born 11 October 1948, Ellsworth, Kansas
Married to Janice Wiebe Ollenburger (1979)
Children: Mary Helena (1983), Katherine Margaret (1986)
Member: Prairie Street Mennonite Church

Education

B. A. California State University, Long Beach (Philosophy) 1973
M.A. Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (Old Testament) 1975
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary (Old Testament) 1982

Professional

1997- Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Director of MA Programs
1994- Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary,
Professor of Biblical Theology
1987-94 Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries,
Associate Professor of Old Testament
1982-87 Princeton Theological Seminary
Assistant Professor of Old Testament
1980-82 Princeton Theological Seminary
Instructor in Old Testament
1975-77 Tabor College
Instructor in Religious Studies and Philosophy

Publications, Books

Zion, the City of the Great King: A Theological Symbol of the Jerusalem Cult
(JSOTSupp 41; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1987).
Co-editor, *Understanding the Word: Essays in Honor of Bernhard W. Anderson*.
JSOTSupp 37; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1985 (with James T. Butler and Edgar
W. Conrad).
Editor, *So Wide a Sea: Essays on Biblical and Systematic Theology*. Elkhart, IN:
Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1991.
Co-editor, *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology*. Winona Lake:
Eisenbrauns, 1992 (with Elmer A. Martens and Gerhard Hasel).
Co-editor, *Biblical Theology Problems and Prospects: In Honor of J.*
Christiaan Beker. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995 (with Steven Kraftchick and
Charles D Myers).
Zechariah. New Interpreter's Bible VII (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996).
Co-editor, *A Mind Patient and Untamed: The Theological Legacy of John*
Howard Yoder. Telford, PA: Cascadia; Scottsdale: Herald, 2004 (with Gayle
Gerber Koontz).
Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns,
2004).

Chapters in Books

“The Hermeneutics of Obedience: Reflections on Anabaptist Hermeneutics,”

- Essays on Biblical Interpretation: Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspectives* (ed. Willard Swartley; Elkhart, IN: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1984) 45-61.
- “Biblical Theology: Situating the Discipline,” in *Understanding the Word*, pp. 37-62.
- “Is God the Friend of Slaves and Wives?” *Perspectives on Feminist Hermeneutics. Occasional Papers* 10 (1987) 97-112.
- “The Concept of ‘Warrior God’ in Peace Theology,” *Essays on Peace Theology and Witness. Occasional Papers* 12 (1988) 112-34.
- “Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi,” *The Books of the Bible* (ed. Bernhard W. Anderson; New York: Scribner’s, 1989) 1.405-14.
- “Gerhard von Rad’s Theory of Holy War,” Introduction to Gerhard von Rad, *Holy War in Ancient Israel* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991) 1-33.
- “Biblical and Systematic Theology: Constructing a Relation,” in *So Wide a Sea*, pp. 111-45.
- “From Timeless Ideas to the Essence of Religion: Method in Old Testament Theology,” in *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology*, pp. 1-19.
- “Peace and God’s Action Against Chaos in the Old Testament,” *The Church’s Peace Witness* (ed. Marlin E. Miller and Barbara Nelson Gingerich; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).
- “Zion,” *Oxford Companion to the Bible* (ed. Bruce M. Metzger; London: Oxford University Press, 1993).
- “Old Testament Theology: A Discourse on Method,” in *Biblical Theology: Problems and Prospects*, pp. 81-103.
- “Theology, Old Testament,” in *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation* (Abingdon, 1999) 562-68.
- “Interpretation, Biblical,” in *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Eerdmans, 2000).
- “*Sola Scriptura* / No Other Foundation—and Other Authoritative Sources?” *Without Spot or Wrinkle: Reflecting Theologically on the Nature of the Church. Occasional Papers* 21 (2000) 65-92.
- “Jubilee: ‘The land is mine; you are aliens and tenants with me.’” *Reclaiming the Old Testament: Essays in Honor of Waldemar Janzen* (ed. Gordon Zerbe; Winnipeg: CMBC Publications, 2001) 208-34.
- “Zechariah’s Vision of Mission and Peace—the Reign of God: An Inquiry into Zechariah 1 – 8,” *Beautiful upon the Mountains: Biblical Essays on Mission, Peace, and the Reign of God* (ed. Mary H. Schertz and Ivan Friesen; Elkhart: IMS; Scottdale, PA: Herald, 2004) 97-120.
- “The Pastor as Prophet,” *The Heart of the Matter: Pastoral Ministry in Anabaptist Perspective* (ed. Erick Sawatzky; Telford, PA: Cascadia; Scottdale, PA: Herald, 2004) 118-28.
- “Editors’ Preface,” *A Mind Patient and Untamed: The Theological Legacy of John Howard Yoder* (Telford, PA: Cascadia; Scottdale: Herald, 2004).
- “Foreword,” Patricia M. McDonald, *God & Violence: Biblical Resources for Living in a Small World* (Scottdale: Herald, 2004) 9-11.
- “Hebrew Bible Theology,” *Methods of Biblical Interpretation* (Nashville: Abingdon: 2004) 251-59 (reprint of “Theology, Old Testament,” 1999).
- “Pursuing the Truth of Scripture: Reflections on Nicholas Wolterstorff’s *Divine Discourse*,” in *But Is It All True? The Bible and the Question of Truth* (ed. Alan G. Padgett and Patrick R. Keifert; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006) 44-65.
- “Creation and Peace: God and Creature in Genesis 1 – 11,” in *The Old Testament in the Life of God’s People: Essays in Honor of Elmer A. Martens* (ed. Jon Isaak; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, forthcoming 2009).

Articles

- “Mennonites, ‘Civil Religion,’ and the American Bicentennial: An Interview

- with James C. Juhnke,” *Direction* 5 (1976) 15-21.
- “The Hermeneutics of Obedience,” *Direction* 6 (1977) 19-31.
- “Response” to Elmer A. Martens, “The Problem of Old Testament Ethics,” *Direction* 6 (1977) 35-37.
- “Seeing the Truth: Proverbial Wisdom and Ethical Decisions,” *Direction* 9 (1980) 23-31.
- “What Krister Stendahl ‘Meant’ – A Normative Critique of ‘Descriptive’ Biblical Theology,” *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 8 (1986) 61-98.
- “Suffering and Hope: The Story Behind the Book,” *Theology Today* 44 (1987) 350-59.
- “Creation: Starting at the Beginning,” *AMBS Bulletin* 51:1 (1987) 2-4.
- “Isaiah’s Creation Theology,” *Ex Auditu* 3 (1988) 54-71.
- “Useless Praise,” *Gospel Herald* 82:16 (1989) 266-67.
- “Christology and the Creeds,” *AMBS Bulletin* 52:3 (1989) 1-3.
- “Tell Me the Old, Old Story,” *Journal for Preachers* 13 (1990) 42-44.
- “The Authority of Theology,” *AMBS Bulletin* 54:2 (1991) 9-11.
- “We Believe in God...Maker of Heaven and Earth,” *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 12 (1990) 64-96.
- “Mennonite Theology: A Conversation Around the Creeds,” *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 66 (1992) 57-89.
- “If Mortals Die, Will They Live Again,” *Ex Auditu* 9 (1993) 29-44.
- “Stanley Hauerwas and Mennonites: Insulated Entities?” *Conrad Grebel Review* (1995) 162-65.
- “Preaching From the Old Testament in a Postmodern World,” *Direction* 25 (1997) 26-35.
- “Review Essay: The History of Israel Contested and Revised,” *Modern Theology* 16 (2000) 529-40.
- “Jubilee and Holiness,” *The Living Pulpit* 10 (2001) 24-25.
- “Discoursing Old Testament Theology,” *Biblical Interpretation* 11 (2003) 612-28.
- “‘What Does this Mean?’ Biblical Reflections on Catechesis,” *Vision* 4 (2003) 21-27.
- “The Passion and God’s Atonement” (with Amy L. Barker), *Mennonite Life* 59 (2004):
http://www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/2004June/ollenburger_barker.php.
- “True Evangelical Faith: The Anabaptists and Christian Confession,” *Mennonite Life* 60 (June, 2005)
<http://www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/2005Sept/ollenburger.php>.

Presentations (sample)

- “Creation and Peace,” four lectures at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON, February 20-22, 2006.
- “‘O Lord, Send Someone Else!’ Biblical Perspectives on Calling” (with Amy Barker), Cultivating a Culture of Call, Goshen College, October 21-22, 2005.
- “The Oblique Churchly Service of Scholarship,” Mennonite Scholars and Friends, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 22, 2003.
- “Initiative and Response (-ability), Divine and Human: The Old Testament.” Christian Theology and the Bible Group, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Toronto, November 24, 2002.
- “Responding to *The God Who Risks* (John Sanders, *The God Who Risks* [Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999]), Christian Theological Research Fellowship, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Nashville, November 19, 2000.

- “Scripture and Truth: Reflections on Wolterstorff’s *Divine Discourse*,” *Bible in Theological Reflection*, Center of Theological Inquiry, January 21-23, 2000.
- An Old Testament Theology of Peace*, Tokyo Biblical Seminary, June 22-25, 1999; Kobe Lutheran Seminary—Asia Graduate School of Theology, June 30-July 1, 1999.
- The Creation of Peace in the Old Testament—God Creates Peace (that means war)*. The Believers Church Lectures, Fresno Pacific University, 18-19 March 1999.
- “Double Agency and the Truth of Scripture: A Response to Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Divine Discourse*.” The Lilly Symposium on the Bible and Truth, Azusa Pacific University, 9-10 January, 1999.
- “Zechariah’s Vision of Peace, Mission, and the Reign of God,” Symposium on Peace, Mission, and the Reign of God, Institute of Mennonite Studies, 6-7 June 1998.
- “Isaiah the Prophet,” Winter Bible Class, Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, March, 1996.
- “Theory and Practice in Theological Education,” Lilly Conference on the Aims of Evangelical Theological Education, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2-4 December 1995.
- “The Resurrection of the Dead in the Old Testament?” Symposium on Theological Interpretation of Scripture, North Park Theological Seminary, 8-10 October, 1993.
- “‘You, O Yhwh, are Our Father:’ Isa 63:15-18 and the Judean Temple Economy,” Second Temple Section, AAR/SBL Annual meeting, 1994, Chicago, IL (with Harold Washington).

Book Reviews

- Donald E. Gowan, *The Triumph of Faith in Habakkuk* (Atlanta: John Knox, 1976). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 2 (1978) 59-60.
- Joachim Becker, *Messianic Expectation in the Old Testament* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 3 (1981) 206-207.
- Levi Olan, *Prophetic Faith and the Secular Age* (New York: KTAV, 1982). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 4 (1983) 202-203.
- W. H. Schmidt, *The Faith of the Old Testament* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 5 (1984) 67-68.
- Paul D. Hanson, *Visionaries and Their Apocalypses* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 5 (1984) 161-63.
- Samuel Terrien, *The Elusive Presence* (New York: Harper & Row, 1983). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 5 (1984) 160-61.
- James Barr, *Holy Scripture: Canon, Authority, Criticism* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983). *Theology Today* 41 (1984) 207-210.
- Dianne Bergant, *What are They Saying About Wisdom* (Ramsey, NJ: Paulist, 1984). *Theology Today* 41 (1984) 369-70.
- James L. Crenshaw, *A Whirlpool of Torment* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984). *Theology Today* 41 (1984) 369-70.
- Phyllis Tribble, *Texts of Terror* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984). *Journal of Biblical Literature* 105 (1986) 519-21.
- J. H. Hayes and F. Prussner, *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development* (Atlanta: John Knox, 1985). *Theology Today* 42 (1985) 244-48.
- Douglas Knight and Gene Tucker, *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985). *Theology Today* 42 (1985) 532-34.

- Brevard Childs, *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986). *Christian Century* 103/24 (1986) 720.
- Jürgen Moltmann, *God in Creation: A New Theology of Creation in the Spirit of God* (New York: Harper & Row, 1985). *America* 156 (1986) 192-94.
- John Rogerson, *Old Testament Criticism in the Nineteenth Century* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985). *Theology Today* 48 (1987) 503-508.
- H. G. Reventlow, *Problems of Old Testament Theology in the Twentieth Century* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 8 (1987) 70-71.
- Elmer A. Martens, *Jeremiah* (Believers Church Bible Commentary; Scottdale: Herald, 1986). *Direction* 16 (1987) 80-83.
- Hans-Joachim Kraus, *Theology of Psalms* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986). *Theology Today* 44 (1987) 416.
- H. G. Reventlow, *Problems of Old Testament Theology in the Twentieth Century* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985). *Theology Today* 44 (1988) 556.
- Duncan S. Ferguson, *Biblical Hermeneutics: An Introduction* (Atlanta: John Knox, 1986). *Critical Review of Books in Religion* (1988) 122-24.
- Robert A. Oden, Jr., *The Bible Without Theology* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987). *Theology Today* 44 (1987) 400-402.
- Raymund Schwager, *Must There Be Scapegoats* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987). *Theology Today* 45 (1988) 351.
- James L. Mays, ed., *Harper's Bible Commentary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 10 (1989) 148-150.
- David L. Peterson, ed., *Prophecy in Israel* (Philadelphia: Fortress Pr, 1987). *Interpretation* 43 (1989) 310.
- Joseph W. Groves, *Actualization and Interpretation in the Old Testament* (SBLDS; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1987). *Critical Review of Books in Religion* (1989) 165-168.
- Stuart E. Rosenberg, *The Christian Problem: A Jewish View* (Edison, NJ: Hippocrene Bks, 1986). *Conrad Grebel Review* 7 (1989) 91-93.
- Gary Stansell, *Micah and Isaiah* (SBLDS; Atlanta: Scholars Pr, 1988). *Interpretation* 44 (1990) 418.
- Dan G. Johnson, *From Chaos to Restoration* (JSOTSupp 61; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1988). *Interpretation* 44 (1990) 418.
- Seizo Sekine, *Die Tritojesajanische Sammlung (Jes 56-66) redaktionsgeschichtlich untersucht* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1989). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 53 (1991) 121-123.
- J. J. M. Roberts, *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah* (Old Testament Library; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991). *Theology Today* 49 (1992) 94.
- Mark G. Brett, *Biblical Criticism in Crisis: The Impact of the Canonical Approach on Old Testament Studies* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1991). *Modern Theology* 8 (1992) 403-404.
- Anthony F. Campbell, S.J., *The Study Companion to Old Testament Literature* (Wilmington: Glazier, 1989). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 54 (1992) 315-316.
- Adrian Schenker, *Text und Sinn im Alten Testament* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1991). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 55 (1993) 205.
- G. Tom Milazzo, *The protest and the Silence: Suffering, Death, and Biblical Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992). *Theology Today* 50 (1994) 631-632.
- James Barr, *Biblical Faith and Natural Theology* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1993). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 15 (1994) 301-303.
- Jon D. Levenson, *Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, and Historical Criticism* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993). *Modern Theology* 11 (1995) 259-261.

- Susan Niditch, *War in the Hebrew Bible: A Study in the Ethics of Violence* (New York: Oxford, 1993). *Interpretation* 48 (1994) 436-437.
- Christoph Dohmen, *Biblischer Kanon, warum und wozu: Eine Kanontheologie* (Feiburg: Herder, 1992) *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 5 (1994) 757-758.
- Horst Dietrich Preuss, *Old Testament Theology* (Old Testament Library: Louisville: Westminster, 2 vols: 1995, 1996). *Interpretation* 51 (1997) 307-308.
- Francis Watson, *Text and Truth: Redefining Biblical Theology* (Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 1997). *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 20 (1998) 156-157.
- Walter Brueggemann, *Theology of the Old Testament* (Minneapolis: Fortress: 1997). *Interpretation* 53 (1999) 71-73.
- Stuart Murray, *Biblical Interpretation in the Anabaptist Tradition* (Kitchener, ON: Pandora, 2000). *Mennonite Life* (Online) 56 2001.
- Eugene F. Roop, *Ruth, Jonah, Esther* (Believers Church Bible Commentary; Scottsdale: Herald, 2002). *Direction* 33 (2004) 112-113.
- Robert P. Gordon, *Holy land, holy city: Sacred Geography and the interpretation of the Bible* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 68 (2006) 113-114.
- John Goldingay, *Old Testament Theology, Vol 1: Isreal's Gospel* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003). *Interpretation* 60 (2006) 214-16.
- Christine Roy Yoder, Kathleen O' Connor, E. Elizabeth Johnson, and Stanley P. Saunders, eds., *Shaking Heaven and Earth: Essays in Honor of Walter Brueggemann and Charles B. Cousar* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 69 (2007) 183-86.
- M. Daniel Carroll and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, eds. *Character Ethics and the Old Testament: Moral Dimensions of Scripture* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2007); Robert L Brawley, ed. *Character Ethics and the New Testament: Moral Dimensions of Scripture* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2007), *Conrad Grebel Review* 26 (2008) 136-39.
- Robert P. Gordon, ed., *The God of Israel* (New York: Cambridge U. Press, 2007), *Review of Biblical Literature* (Nov 29, 2008: <http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleID=6404>).

Courses and Seminars

Princeton Theological Seminary:

Orientation to Old Testament Study (with J. J. M. Roberts)
 Themes in Biblical Theology (with J. Christiaan Beker)
 Methodology in Old Testament Theology (Ph.D. seminar)
 Exegesis of Third Isaiah (Hebrew; Ph.D. seminar)
 Exegesis of Second Isaiah (Hebrew)
 Prophets of Judah's Restoration (Hebrew)
 Exegesis of Genesis (Hebrew)
 Old Testament Theologies of War & Peace
 Contemporary Issues in Old Testament Theology
 Apocalyptic Literature and Theology
 Introduction to Hebrew I and II
 Hebrew Reading
 D.Min. Seminar

AMBS:

Introduction to the Old Testament
 War & Peace in the Bible (with Willard M. Swartley)
 The Book of Isaiah
 Hermeneutics
 Old Testament Theology

Themes in Biblical Theology
The Authority of Scripture
Biblical Studies Seminar: Canon
The Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)
Prophets of Judah's Restoration (Hebrew)
The Book of Genesis (Hebrew)
Beginning Hebrew: Ruth
Hebrew Readings: Prophets

Tabor College:

Introduction to the Bible
Hebrew Faith and Literature
Prophecy in Israel
Introduction to Greek
Advanced Greek
Introduction to Philosophy
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
Philosophy of Religion

***Committees
And
Extra-
Curricular***

Editorial Council, *Theology Today*, 1984-2003
Editorial Board, *Biblical Interpretation*, 1992-
Old Testament Editor, *Studies in Peace and Scripture*, 1989-
Society of Biblical Literature, Consultation on Peace and Scripture
Steering Committee, 1990-92
Society of Biblical Literature, Theology of the Hebrew Bible Section,
Steering Committee, 1989-92
Society of Biblical Literature, Bible and Christian Theology Consultation,
Steering Committee, 1993-96
Society of Biblical Literature, Bible and Christian Theology Group, co-chair,
1996-2001
Society of Biblical Literature, Bible and Christian Theology Section, Steering
Committee, 2002-05
Summer School, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1988, 1998
Visiting Professor, Bethel College (IN), 2006
Aims of Evangelical Theological Education (Lilly Endowment), 1990-97
Faculty representative to the AMBS board, 1999-2003
Admissions Committee, AMBS, 1992-2003
Lexington Seminar Committee, 1999-2003
Worship Committee, AMBS, 1994-2000
Bookstore Committee, AMBS, 1987-92, 1995-96, 2000-03
Theological Center Guest Committee, AMBS, chair, 1994-96
Library Committee, AMBS, 2003-
Faculty Development Committee, AMBS, 2003-
Faculty Status and Counseling Committee, AMBS, 2003-
Long Range Personnel Planning Committee, AMBS, 2003-
Strategic Planning Council, AMBS, 2003-
Chair, Bible Department, AMBS, 2003-
Planning Committee, Believers Church Conference: Assessing the Theological
Legacy of John Howard Yoder, AMBS, Goshen College, University of
Notre Dame, 1999-2002.
Administrative Committee, faculty representative, AMBS, 1988-90.
Coordinating Committee for Curriculum Review and Educational
Philosophy, AMBS, 1989-93 (chair, 1992-93).
Coordinator of Faculty Scholarship Development, AMBS, 1988-90

Committee on Faculty Organization and Decision-Making, chair, AMBS, 1988
Planning Committee, "Conversations: A Theological Project in Hermeneutics and Cultural Contexts," Princeton Seminary (Lilly Endowment), 1985-87
Committee on Black Concerns, Princeton Seminary, 1983-86 (chair, 1985)
Committee on Church and Society, Princeton Seminary, 1983-86
Ad hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Princeton Seminary, 1984-85)
Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluation, Tabor College, 1975-76
Worship Commission, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1987-90, 1993-96 (chair, 1995-96), 2001-05
Nurture Commission, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1991-93
Pastoral Relations Committee, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1995-98