

Gayle Gerber Koontz

Professor of Theology and Ethics, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Contact Information

Office: AMBS, 3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517 Phone: 574-295-3726 or voice mail at 219-296-6232

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Education

Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and ethics, Boston University, Division of Theological and Religious Studies, 1985

M.A. in religion, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 1976; completed the first year of the Master of Divinity program, Harvard Divinity School, 1972

B.A., Bethel College (Kansas), English literature with certification in secondary school education, 1969

Completed three years of undergraduate education, Bluffton College (Ohio), 1967

Honors

1981 Co-recipient of Bethel College Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

1976 M.A., summa cum laude

1969 B.A., "with high distinction"

Thesis "Confessional Theology in a Pluralistic Context: A Study of the Theological Ethics of H. Richard Niebuhr and John H. Yoder"
Advisors: Paul Deats and Gordon Kaufman

Teaching Experience and Academic Administration

July 1995— Professor of Theology and Ethics and Department Chair, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS,) 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Nov. 1994—July 1995 Acting President (AMBS)

July 1990-Feb. 1995 Dean and Associate Professor of Theology, (AMBS)

1988-90 Part-time Visiting Professor, Silliman University Divinity School, Dumaguete, Philippines

1985-86 Acting Dean, AMBS

1984-88 Chair, Department of History, Theology and Ethics, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries (AMBS)

1982- Assistant Professor (1982-88) and Associate Professor (1988-95) of Theology, AMBS. On sabbatical leave and leave of absence July 1988-July 1990.

Courses:

- Contemporary Theology
 - Theology of the Church
 - Thinking Ethically
 - Philosophical Theology
 - Seminar in Theology: Christian Feminist Theology
 - Seminar in Theology: Faith, Film and Fiction
 - Theology and Religious Pluralism
 - Women/Men: History and Vision
 - Human Sexuality and Christian Ethics
 - Church and Race
- 1981-82 Assistant Professor of Religion, Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526
Courses: Asian Religions; The Christian Faith; Introduction to Philosophy;
Philosophy of Religion
- 1977-80 Graduate Assistant, Boston University School of Theology, in "Introduction to
Christian Thought" (Prof. Leroy Rouner)
- 1969-71 English, speech and journalism teacher at Melrose High School, Melrose,
Massachusetts

Other Employment and Related Experience

- 2001-04 Member of the Mennonite Church—Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
bilateral conversation group
- 1996-2002 Member of the Greencroft (long-term health care center) Ethics Committee
- 1996-2001 Member of the General Conference Mennonite Church Higher Education Council
- 1986- Consulting Editor, Mennonite Quarterly Review
- 1985-88 General Conference member of the Mennonite Joint Confession of Faith
Committee
- 1985-88 Executive Council, Mennonite Historical Society
- 1984-87 Member of the Committee on Underrepresented Constituencies, Association of
Theological Schools (North America)
- 1980-88 Member of the Executive Council, Institute of Mennonite Studies
- 1978-80 Part-time pastor, Mennonite Congregation of Boston
- 1977-80 Graduate Assistant and half-time administrative assistant and manuscript copy
editor, Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion
- 1976-79 Member of Mennonite Central Committee Peace Section Task Force on Women in
Church and Society; editor of Task Force Newsletter
- 1974-76 Director of Information Services, Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, PA.
Responsible for writing and editing of a weekly news service and for contacts with
church and secular media; for supervising a staff of five in production of posters,
displays, audio-visuals, annual reports, newsletters, and recruitment and
interpretive brochures
- 1972-74 Assistant Editor, Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, PA
- 1967-68 Youth worker, General Conference Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas

Publications by Date

Review of *Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics* by Samuel Wells (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos, 1999), in *Christian Century* (May 31, 2005):40-41.

Koontz, Gayle Gerber and Ben C. Ollenburger, ed. *A Mind Patient and Untamed: Assessing John Howard Yoder's Contributions to Theology, Ethics, and Peacemaking*. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press and Telford, Pa.: Cascadia Publishing House, 2004.

"After a Death: Theology and Christian Funeral Practices," *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* (Spring 2004):12-19.

"Ecclesiology, Authority and Ministry: An Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspective" in *The Heart of the Matter*. Ed. Erick Sawatzky. Telford, Pa.: Cascadia Publishing House, 2004.

Review of *The Dogmatic Imagination: The Dynamics of Christian Belief*, by A. James Reimer (Waterloo, Ont.: Herald Press, 2003), in *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* 4/2 (Fall 2003): 91-92.

Review of *Mennonites and Classical Theology*, by A. James Reimer (Kitchener, Ont.: Pandora Press co-published with Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2001) in *Conrad Grebel Review* (Winter 2002):112-117.

Review of *Leaving and Clinging: The Human Significance of the Conjugal Union*, by Paul Peachey (New York: University Press of America, 2001). Requested by Mennonite Quarterly Review (2002).

"Place With God: A Mennonite Perspective on the Sacred." Mennonite Life 55:2 (online publication only at <http://www.bethelks.edu/mennonitelife/>), June 2000.

"Meeting in the Power of the Spirit: Ecclesiology, Ethics, and the Practice of Discernment." In The Wisdom of the Cross: Essays in Honor of John Howard Yoder. Ed. Stanley Hauerwas et al. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1999.

"From a Distance." In She Has Done a Good Thing: Mennonite Women Leaders Tell Their Stories. Ed. Mary Swartley and Rhoda Keener. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1999.

"Theology from the Roots" in Rooted and Branching: Women Worldwide. Ed. Dorothy Yoder Nyce. Goshen, Ind.: Dorothy Yoder Nyce, 1998.

Theology for the Church: Writings by Marlin E. Miller. Ed. Richard A. Kauffman and Gayle Gerber Koontz. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1997.

"Poetic Silence" in To See Each Other's Good. Ed. Dorothy Yoder Nyce. Freeman, S.D.: Pine Hill Press (published by Nyce), 1996.

"Evangelical Peace Theology and Religious Pluralism: Particularity in Perspective." Conrad Grebel Review (Winter 1996):57-85. Paper originally presented at the MCC Peace Theology Colloquium, Messiah College, Grantham, Pa., June 1994.

"As We Forgive Others: Christian Forgiveness and Feminist Pain." Mennonite Quarterly Review (April 1994):170-93.

"Redemptive Resistance to Violation of Women: Christian Power, Justice and Self-Giving Love." In Theology and Violence Against Women, pp. 29-47. Ed. Elizabeth Yoder. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1992.

"The Liberation of Atonement," Mennonite Quarterly Review 63:2 (April 1989).

"Freedom, Discipleship and Theological Reflection," in Freedom and Discipleship: Liberation Theology in Anabaptist Perspective, ed. Daniel Schipani, Orbis, 1988.

"The Demonic and the Way of the Cross," response to "An Evangelical position on Bondage and Exorcism" by Timothy Warner at a Consultation on Bondage and Deliverance, AMBS, July 30-August 1, 1987. Published in Essays on Bondage and Deliverance, Occasional Papers #11. Ed. Willard M. Swartley. Elkhart, IN: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1988.

Articles for the Supplement to the Mennonite Encyclopedia on "Neoorthodoxy," "H. Richard Niebuhr," "Susanna Schroeder."

"The Trajectory of Scripture and Feminist Conviction," in Conrad Grebel Review 5 (Fall 1987): 201-220. Also published as "Peace Theology and Patriarchy: The Trajectory of Scripture and Feminist Conviction," in Essays on Peace Theology and Witness, Occasional Papers No. 12. Ed. by Willard M. Swartley. Elkhart, IN: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1988.

Perspectives on Feminist Hermeneutics. Ed. Gayle Gerber Koontz and Willard Swartley. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1988.

"Feminist Spirituality and the Mennonite Church," a paper presented at a Mennonite Church Consultation on Spirituality, Ashland, Ohio, 1986. Selections printed as "Christian Feminist Spirituality," AMBS Bulletin (Winter 1987).

"A Theologian's Companions," The Window (published by AMBS), April 1982.

"Is There a Theology for Professionals?" in Perils of Professionalism, ed. by Phyllis Pellman Good and Donald Kraybill (Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1982).

"Peacemaking Through Power: A Word for Women in the Church," in Which Way Women?, ed. by Dorothy Yoder Nyce. Akron, Pa.: Mennonite Central Committee, 1980.

Papers and Presentations by Date

- "Life Flows On: Faith for Families of Those with Chronic Mental Illness." A day-long workshop presented in Brandon, Winkler, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 7-9, 2005.
- "Place With God: A Mennonite Geography of the Spirit." Menno Simons Lectures, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas. November 1998.
- "Diversity in the Church: Judgment, Patience, and Unity in Christ," Ottawa Mennonite Church, Ottawa, Ontario, January 1997.
- "Exploring the Wilderness: Between Generations." Western District Women's Retreat, Camp Menoscaw, Kansas, September 1995.
- "Welcoming the Stranger: Prayer as Hospitality." Leamington, Ontario area churches, January 8-10, 1995.
- "Earth Between Our Toes" and "Camping With Hope." Mennonite Camping Association, March 22, 1994.
- "Sacred Sexuality." Akron Mennonite Church Adult Bible School, Akron, Pa., June 20-24, 1993. Selections presented at the Assembly Mennonite Congregation, Goshen, Ind., November 1993.
- "Women and Men in Transition." Lectures sponsored by the MCC (B.C.) Peace and Service Committee and Women's Concerns Committee, February 1993.
- "Theology From the Roots." Winter Bible lectures at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, January 1992.
- "The Earth is the Lord's," Bible lectures on theology of the land, Henderson (Nebraska) Mennonite Church, January 1987.
- "Two Bodies, One Bible: Women, Men and the Word of God." Bethel College Bible Lectures (Kansas), February 1985. Selections presented at Conrad Grebel College, September 1985.
- "Peaceable Women: Feminism and Peacemaking in the Church," a paper presented at the Women in Ministry Conference, Kitchener, Ontario, October 1982.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics
Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development (COPRED)

Personal

Born November 19, 1946, at Bluffton, Ohio, USA
Married to Theodore James Koontz on March 8, 1969
Mother of Rachel, born February 24, 1980, Timothy, born April 4, 1983, and Peter, born December 2, 1985
Member of the Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana

Board member of the Elkhart Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored
People

Weekly volunteer in the Elkhart Co. Big Brother/Big Sister program 1998-2005

Member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) 2005 -