



AMBS

explore ~ prepare ~ serve

academic programs fact sheet

■ program description

The theological studies program at AMBS is designed to prepare students for doctoral studies or to develop facility with theology as the language of the church—the language by which we pursue crucial questions about God and the church. In this way, the program empowers students to integrate theological reflection into the professions in which they serve. The program includes three areas of concentration: biblical studies, church history, and theology and ethics. Each provides important opportunities for interdisciplinary and interdepartmental coursework.

One of the strengths of AMBS's theological studies program is the way teaching faculty use research and pedagogy to broaden students' perspectives. Whether it is the Bible department's creative approaches to exegesis or the wealth of research resources available in church history, students experience the seminary's desire to support and renew the worship, community life and witness of the church.

The understanding of the church as a covenant community, important to the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, informs the teaching and learning at AMBS. This stands in contrast to approaches that assume strong individualism in Christian interpretation of Scripture, in understanding God and human nature and in decision-making. The community also engages in persistent dialogue about what it means to be Christian peacemakers. Students encounter such conversation in courses like "Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace and Revolution," and in the way questions emerge in classes or in informal conversations: What is the meaning of the cross of Christ for social ethics? How does peace theology address situations of violence against women? How do we understand God's power and what does it imply for how we use power?

■ programs of study

Several degrees are built around disciplines in theological studies:

The Master of Arts: Theological Studies is a 60-hour program designed to provide graduate theological education. Each MATS student chooses biblical studies, church history, or theology and ethics themes around which to concentrate his or her study. The program also includes the MA seminar, which provides students with a community for discussion, theological integration and vocational discernment.

The Master of Divinity, the 90-hour program which prepares students for pastoral ministry, offers a concentration in theological studies. Students choose from one of four areas: biblical studies, church history, theology and ethics, or peace and justice studies. This program allows

Master of Arts: Theological Studies
(60 credit hours)

Concentrations: Biblical Studies,
Church History, or Theology and Ethics

Master of Divinity, Theological
Studies concentration
(90 credit hours)

faculty

biblical studies

Loren L. Johns, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of New Testament

The Lamb Christology of the Apocalypse of John: An Investigation into Its Origins and Rhetorical Force (Mohr Siebeck, 2003)

Ben C. Ollenburger, Ph.D.

Professor of Biblical Theology

Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future (Eisenbrauns, 2004)

Mary H. Schertz, Ph.D.

Professor of New Testament

"Keeping Faith: New Testament Scholarship and the Church" in *Minding the Church: Scholarship in the Anabaptist Tradition* (Pandora, 2002)

Safwat Marzouk, Ph.D. candidate

Assistant Professor of Old Testament

Paul Keim, Ph.D.

Sessional faculty

church history

John Rempel, Th.D.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Anabaptist Studies

"Anabaptist Religious Literature and Hymnody" in *Brill's Companion to Anabaptism and Spiritualism, 1521-1708* (Brill, 2006)

Walter W. Sawatsky, Ph.D.

Professor of Church History and Mission

Mission in the Former Soviet Union (Neufeld Verlag, 2005), co-editor

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flexibility within the MDiv degree for people pursuing teaching ministry or further graduate study.

AMBS also offers a Certificate in Theological Studies. This program serves people who seek basic theological training, particularly to enhance their professional work. The certificate can be earned in one full-time year on campus or by studying part-time over several years.

■ ministry options

Recent AMBS Theological Studies graduates have pursued a variety of options: further graduate or doctoral studies, teaching, pastoring—both domestically and internationally, church administration, serving with mission and service agencies, and a range of other pursuits. Several graduates continued in the roles they had filled before attending seminary, bringing fresh perspectives to familiar situations.

■ key resources

Library: The AMBS library supports research in biblical and theological studies and in church history. It specializes in collecting materials on the Sermon on the Mount and the theology and ethics of peace and justice. A broad range of electronic resources, including the ATLA Religion Database, is provided for both on-campus use and remote access.

The Mennonite Historical Library (MHL) at nearby Goshen College is the most comprehensive collection in the world of resources for studying Anabaptist and Mennonite history and theology. MHL holdings are included in the AMBS library online catalog, and a shuttle service carries materials between the two libraries.

Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS): IMS, the research and publishing arm of AMBS, sponsors conferences and scholarly work on a variety of topics related to church history, biblical studies and theology. In recent years, conferences have focused on the theology of John Howard Yoder; the ecclesiology of the church; the practice and place of baptism and catechism in the Believers Church; an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective on “hard cases” involving demonic possession, spiritual powers and cosmic battles; and the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

■ additional information

- **AMBS web site:** www.ambs.edu
Select *Academics*, then *Degree programs*, then *Master of Divinity* or *Master of Arts: Theological Studies*.
- **Institute of Mennonite Studies web site:** www.ambs.edu/IMS
- **AMBS Admissions Office**
admissions@ambs.edu or 800.964.2627
- **AMBS Catalog**
Request from Admissions Office or consult online at www.ambs.edu/student-resources/catalog

theology and ethics

Lois Y. Barrett, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Theology and Anabaptist Studies

Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness (Eerdmans, 2004), co-author

Andy Brubacher Kaethler,

Ph.D. candidate,

Instructor in Christian Formation and Culture, Explore Director, AMBS

Gayle Gerber Koontz, Ph.D.

Professor of Theology and Ethics

A Mind Patient and Untamed: Assessing John Howard Yoder's Contributions to Theology, Ethics and Peacemaking (Cascadia and Herald, 2004), co-editor

Ted Koontz, Ph.D.

Professor of Ethics and Peace Studies

“Thinking Ethically about War Against Iraq” in *Mennonite Quarterly Review* (January 2003)

Joe Kotva, Jr., Ph.D.

Sessional faculty

Regina Shands Stoltzfus,

Ph.D. candidate

Sessional faculty