



AMBS

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worship fact sheet

■ program description

Educating men and women for leadership in congregational worship is the focus of this concentration within the Master of Arts in Christian Formation degree. Students improve their skills for worship leadership and learn how to develop the ministry of worship planning and leadership in congregations. This two-year degree includes a yearlong practicum in a congregational setting; coursework directly related to the use of various art media—including preaching—in corporate worship; and course requirements from the disciplines that undergird systematic reflection on the practices of congregational worship.

The program seeks to develop critical reflection and leadership skills for the wide range of worship styles found in the Christian church. Practicing worship within an Anabaptist understanding of the church is a central aim of this course of study. Attention is focused on the formative nature of worship for congregational life and discipleship.

Students with experience in worship leading, preaching, music leadership, visual arts, or oral interpretation will find this degree of particular interest.

■ programs of study

The courses of this 60-hour degree program are evenly distributed throughout the seminary curriculum to encourage a breadth of knowledge for practicing discernment.

Core courses include biblical studies, history, theology, ethics, and church and ministry studies. Additional courses specifically in ministry and worship arts also are required, with an emphasis on the concentration the student has selected. Included in these courses is a practicum, focused on specialized interests or areas of needed growth. Most of these courses address skill development in worship leadership and planning. Courses in the concentration may be adapted to students' particular needs and prior experiences.

In most cases, students complete comprehensive exams at the conclusion of their program. Some students in consultation with their advisers may do a thesis in place of exams.

For the Certificate in Worship Leadership, students take a basic set of nine courses, including a practicum, to enhance their contributions to the congregations where they are involved. They can choose a focus on either the oral communication or music leadership aspects of worship.

Master of Arts in Christian Formation,
Worship concentration
(60 credit hours)
Certificate in Worship Leadership
(27 credit hours)

faculty

Marlene Kropf, D. Min.

Associate Professor in Spiritual Formation and Worship

Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching (Herald, 2005), co-author

Singing: A Mennonite Voice (Herald, 2001), co-author

John Rempel, Th.D.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Anabaptist Studies

"Ritual as My Third Language: an autobiographical account," in *Mennonite Quarterly Review* (January 2005)

"Worship in the Anabaptist Tradition," in *The Oxford History of Christian Worship* (Oxford University, 2005)

The Lord's Supper in Anabaptism (Herald, 1993)

Rebecca Slough, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Worship and the Arts
Director, Spiritual Formation Program
Academic Dean

Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching (Herald, 2005), co-author

"Acting the Word: Preaching in the Context of Worship" in *Anabaptist Preaching: A Conversation Between Pulpit, Pew and Bible* (Cascadia, 2003)

Hymnal: A Worship Book (Faith & Life, Brethren, Mennonite Publishing House, 1992), managing editor

Additional lecturers and practitioners in music and the visual arts will be used in the program.

■ ministry options

Graduates of this specialized ministry degree program are best equipped to serve with other pastoral leaders by providing worship leadership and nurturing worship leadership gifts in other congregational members. Students with an undergraduate degree in music could serve as ministers of music. This degree could open ministry possibilities in denominational, conference or regional church offices or retreat settings. Developing web-or print-based worship resources for publication is another ministry option.

■ program resources

Chapel of the Word: AMBS has a small chapel designed for teaching worship arts. The room's small size and distinct design make it ideal for classes in which students learn how to preach, lead worship and singing, and conduct rituals such as communion and baptism. It is equipped with sound and visual recording so that students can learn how to use this technology and view themselves in preaching and worship roles.

Workshops: One-day worship planning events are offered regularly for Lent, Easter to Pentecost, Advent and Ordinary Time. These are continuing education events coordinated by the Church Leadership Center; they are led by Marlene Kropf with help from others, including AMBS students. In addition, AMBS occasionally offers events—such as a biblical storytelling festival—with demonstration of worship arts and workshops for building skills.

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, published twice annually by the Institute of Mennonite Studies at AMBS and the Institute for Theology and the Church at Canadian Mennonite University.

Vol. 6 No. 1: Scripture

Vol. 6 No. 2: Worship

Vol. 7 No. 2: Prayer

Prayer book: *Take our moments and our days: An Anabaptist prayer book* draws on the rich tradition of praying the Daily Office and also on the Anabaptist tradition of prayer and reliance on Scripture. Developed by a team of AMBS faculty, this resource includes morning and evening prayers for a four-week cycle of Ordinary Time, and for the seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost).

■ additional information

- **AMBS web site:** www.ambs.edu
Select *Academics*, then *Degree programs*, then *Master of Arts in Christian Formation*.
- **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