

## GARETH BRANDT'S SERVICE OPTIONS FOR MCBC

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### **SERMONS [20-30 minutes]**

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-23 “Roll over Menno” This sermon uses Menno’s motto (verse 11) in its biblical context for explaining the foundation of Anabaptist core convictions.
- Luke 4:14-30 “Why did Jesus come?” This sermon lets Jesus explain the purposes of his coming: to bring peace and justice.
- Romans 12:17-21 “What would you do if...?” This sermon explores the classic question posed to pacifists with a biblical and practical response.
- Luke 12:49-53; 19:36-46; 22:35-38 “Does the Prince of Peace promote violence? This sermon looks at three difficult texts in the Gospels.
- Ephesians 6:10-20 “Spiritual Warfare” This sermon looks at the weapons of the Spirit that equip us to wage peace.
- Matthew 11:2-11 “What are you expecting?” A sermon about our misconstrued ideas about judgment, ideal for Advent.
- 2 Peter 3:8-13 “Beginning with the End” A sermon about how eschatology shapes our present life, ideal for the New Year.
- Matthew 21:1-17 with Luke 19:28-47 and Mark 11:1-19 “Palm Sunday Symbols” This sermon highlights the social justice issues brought to the fore on this day.

### **SLIDE SHOWS [30-60 minutes]**

- “Anabaptist Beginnings” This slide show introduces the Anabaptist movement of the 16<sup>th</sup> century in its Reformation context and highlights stories from the three geographic regions of its origin.
- “Pictures and Stories for Remembering” This slide show tells 16<sup>th</sup> century stories of peacemaking as inspiration for today. Especially appropriate around Remembrance Day.

### **LECTURES [60-75 minutes]**

- “Violence in the Old Testament” This lecture gives various Christian responses to this age-old hermeneutical dilemma.
- “Violence in the New Testament” This lecture looks at some of the violent texts in the life of Jesus in the context of his teaching on the peaceable kingdom.
- “An Anabaptist Peace Theology” This lecture looks at the biblical foundations for peacemaking and the varieties of biblical pacifism.
- “An Anabaptist View of Scripture” This lecture examines the present MWC statement on Scripture and how to interpret it.
- “Jubilee Economics” This lecture explores the biblical teaching and imagines practical opportunities for daily living.
- “Embracing Human Diversity” This lecture develops a biblical theology and applies it to various issues of division and separation that plague us.

### **COURSES [4 sessions of 60 minutes each]**

“Anabaptist Beginnings” This course introduces the 16th century Anabaptist movement in central Europe. It includes stories from the 16th century as well as theological reflections on contemporary issues.

1. Life in the 16th century: "Major Cultural Shift"
2. The Swiss Anabaptist Movement: "Baptism as Rebellion"
3. The German/Austrian Anabaptist Movement: "Embracing Diversity in Community"
4. The Dutch Anabaptist Movement: "Responding to Violence"