

## **SPEAKING BUREAU OF GARETH BRANDT**

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I am available for a variety of speaking engagements. Below, I have listed a number of courses, sermons, poetry readings, etc. that I would be delighted to serve you with [This is not an exhaustive list]. I am a guest speaker who likes to tailor my talks to suit your purposes so I am always happy to rework things to that end.

### **LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS:**

Any of the class presentations from courses that I teach [Spiritual Formation: Disciplines, Spiritual Formation: Discernment, Anabaptist Theology] can be developed into a stand-alone lecture or workshop. Here are a few examples:

- “Meditating on Scripture” introduces two ways of meditating on Scripture: Discursive Meditation (Entering the Story) and Cognitive Meditation (Lectio Divina).
- “All are Called” helps participants to understand how the concept of vocation applies to all people not just monks and missionaries.
- “Seasonal Spirituality” explores the unique spirituality of different developmental stages of life from childhood to old age
- “What is a Spiritual Man?” deconstructs the warrior imagery and offers more constructive models for men’s spirituality.
- “Economic Spirituality?” explores how two words that are not often used together provide a spiritual foundation for radical, creative, and simple ways of living.
- “An Anabaptist Peace Theology” looks at the biblical foundations for peacemaking and the varieties of biblical pacifism.
- “An Anabaptist View of Scripture” examines a unique hermeneutic based on the present Mennonite World Conference statement on Scripture.
- “From Munster to Menno” makes the claim that the Munster debacle profoundly shaped Menno’s [and subsequent Mennonite’s] spirituality and theology.

### **POETRY READINGS:**

One of my favorite things to do is to read poetry aloud. I have posted some of my poems on the “poetry” page on my website but my poems really need to be heard to be fully appreciated. They are truly spoken word poems.

- “My Life as a Teenager” is full of angst and humor using poems written during my adolescence and young adulthood.
- “Lost Boy: The Journey of Healing from Childhood Sexual Abuse” follows my personal experiences through denial, fear, pain, longing, anger, and healing.
- “Naked Land: A Soul Geography of Western Canada” includes poetry from all four western provinces where I have lived both geographically and spiritually.
- “Looking Both Ways” plumbs the depths of the spiritual journey of midlife.

### **SERMONS AND BIBLE STUDIES:**

I have over 30 years of preaching experience from Genesis to Revelation. I have preached in many churches from Ontario to BC, to groups from 5 in a living room to 5000 in a convention centre [see my CV]. Some of my sermons are posted on the “sermons” page on my website. Biblical books that I’m particularly fond of and/or have numerous sermons on are: Genesis, [especially Joseph stories], Ruth, Psalms [readings in various versions], Jeremiah, Luke, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians.

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### **RETREATS:**

I am a great believer in the value of retreats. I have been part of planning and leading dozens of retreats and conferences for youth and adults. I am open to developing any of my topics above into retreat packages. A few additional retreat ideas are listed below:

- “Who Am I? Who Are We?” examines how gender, personality [using the Enneagram], developmental stage, and/or family systems help participants to understand their unique personality and to appreciate differences with others.
- “Making Friends with People in the Bible” uses character sketches of biblical persons in order to embrace them as spiritual friends, e.g. Joseph, David, Jeremiah, Ruth, Hannah, Peter, Mary, etc.
- “Wounded Healers” is a retreat that focuses on the universal experience of pain and a practical Christian response for personal growth, relationships, and ministry to others.
- “Men Under Construction” is a retreat for men with table activities, Bible study, stories, and teaching on identity, work, and personal discipline.
- “Church Engaging Culture” is a retreat that engages participants in examining our present cultural realities, how Mennonites have engaged culture throughout history, and some models of how individuals and churches can engage culture.

### **SHORT COURSES:**

#### **“Earth Crammed with Heaven: Living Theology in the Every-Day”**

This is a three session course claiming that everyone who believes in God is a theologian and that theology is something we live rather than believe.

- “Work as Worship: Exploring a Theology of Vocation” Work is not part of the curse but part of God’s call to humanity.
- “Praying all Day: Practicing the Presence of God” A fresh exploration of age-old questions: What is prayer? Why pray? How can I pray in the midst of ordinary life?
- “Keeping the Sabbath: Time to just Be”: What does Sabbath keeping look like today? Why keep Sabbath when no one else does? What are some disciplines for Sabbath-keeping?

#### **“Anabaptist Beginnings”**

This is a four session course that introduces the 16th century Anabaptist movement using PowerPoint pictures from Europe. It includes both historical stories and theological reflections on present issues.

- Life in the 16th century: “Major Cultural Shift”
- The Swiss Anabaptist Movement: “Baptism as Rebellion”
- The German/Austrian Anabaptist Movement: “Embracing Diversity in Community”
- The Dutch Anabaptist Movement: “Responding to Violence”

### **ART EXHIBITION:**

“The Anabaptist Traveling Art Gallery” is a series of 13 watercolour paintings of 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings and sites significant to the Anabaptist movement with accompanying story placards that can be set up in a large room, church foyer, or other public space for a short period. Combine it with one of the above.

### **HONORARIUM**

I am an ordained minister of the Mennonite Church. My life calling is to serve the church. I do appreciate an honorarium for my speaking engagements as well as coverage of all expenses related to the speaking engagement such as travel, meals, and lodging. A basic guide for honorariums is: sermons and workshops up to 90 minutes- \$200, weekend retreats or courses up to 4 sessions- \$600. Other

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configurations or special needs can be negotiated. I appreciate private accommodation for retreats and engagements requiring lodging.