

## Foreword

We are pleased to present in this issue the 2005 Bechtel Lectures delivered by Fernando Enns at Conrad Grebel University College, selected papers from the second Mennonite Graduate Student Conference (held at Elkhart, Indiana in 2004), and a wide array of book reviews. Readers of diverse interests and backgrounds cannot help but find something provocative and stimulating among these most varied offerings. After mulling over this issue, be sure to stay with us. We have scheduled many topics to explore, both in omnibus and single theme issues.

### About the Bechtel Lectures

The Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies were established in 2000 through the generosity of Lester Bechtel, a devoted churchman actively interested in Mennonite history. Lester Bechtel's dream was to make the academic world of research and study accessible to a broader constituency, and to build bridges of understanding between the school and the church. The Lectures, held annually and open to the public, offer noted scholars and church leaders the opportunity to explore and discuss topics representing the breadth and depth of Mennonite history and identity. Previous lecturers in this distinguished series were Terry Martin, Stanley Hauerwas, Rudy Wiebe, and Nancy Heisey.

### About the 2005 Bechtel Lecturer

At the time of delivering the 2005 Bechtel Lectures, Fernando Enns was professor of systematic theology and ecumenical studies at the University of Heidelberg. At present he is establishing an Institute for the study of the theology of the Peace Churches at the University of Hamburg. A pastor in the German Mennonite church, he is vice-chair of the Association of Mennonite Churches in Germany. As a Mennonite delegate to the World Council of Churches, he played a key role in initiating the Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-10). Enns's numerous publications include *Seeking Cultures of Peace: A Peace Church Conversation*, co-edited with Scott Holland and Ann K. Riggs (2004), and *Friedenskirche in der Ökumene: Mennonitische Wurzeln einer Ethik der Gewaltfreiheit* [A Peace Church in the Ecumenical Movement: The Mennonite Roots of an Ethic of Nonviolence], (2003).

C. Arnold Snyder, *Academic Editor*      Stephen A. Jones, *Managing Editor*