

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As most of you would know, I was on sabbatical leave during spring 2018. I had a fruitful time of research, travel, and renewal, and have come back refreshed with a new sense of gratitude and joy for my role as the Director of COSSO and a faculty member at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Thanks be to God! I am also grateful to you all for your prayers and to the entire COSSO staff for taking on additional responsibilities during my absence—in particular, Dr. Rebeka Maples (for serving as Acting Director) and Ms. Terri Litchfield.

One of the research projects I worked on during my sabbatical was “The Missionary Theology of D. T. Niles (1908–1970),” a prominent Sri Lankan evangelist, mission theologian, and ecumenist. Manifest in Niles’s mission theology was an integral understanding of the church’s mission that embraced personal, ecclesial, and social transformations. A faithful Wesleyan, he understood the church’s holiness bound up with its missionary calling: “The Church is holy because it is the instrument of God’s mission to the world. . . . Let a Church cease to be missionary and it ceases to be holy” (*That They May Have Life*, 75). Niles urged all Christians to embrace the missionary implications of the Christian faith, since “to be a Christian is to be a member of a missionary community and to become a participant in the activity of a missionary God” (*Upon the Earth*, 10–11). In this study, arguing that Niles’s theology and practice of Christian mission still have much to contribute to a greater understanding of the nature and calling of the church today, I examined his view of the church as a missionary community, his theology of evangelism, and his commitment to the unity and indigenization of the church.

I also made a couple of overseas trips. In March I attended the World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha, Tanzania; and in August I traveled to England to participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Concordat between The UMC and The Methodist Church of Great Britain and in the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. Everywhere—whether in the West or in the global South—churches are in a missionary situation and challenged to be faithful bearers of the Gospel in their own context.

It is with much sadness that I share the passing of Ms. Margaret VanSickle on August 27. She was an English teacher at Buckeye Valley High School for many years. Serving COSSO as both Writing Coach and Musician from 2000 to 2015, she blessed many with her gift of music and caring presence. I thank God for her life of faithful witness and service.

All of us on the COSSO staff are excited to welcome all of you—including fourteen new students and seven graduating students—and pray for God’s continued guidance and blessings on your COS journeys.

Grace and peace,

Joon-Sik Park
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COSSO NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

Writing is meant to be read, which is why we must think about our audience when we sit down to compose an essay. However, we must acknowledge the difference between writing for the reader and writing to the reader. Everything we put down in an essay is for a reader and we must be mindful of this when we arrange our ideas and phrase our sentences. Nonetheless, we are not writing to the reader in academic works. This distinction is important because writing to the reader requires us to make certain assumptions about who the reader is and what the reader thinks. It is easy to see why this might put off a reader if we just put ourselves in the reader’s shoes. Do you like to be told what you think? Do you like to be told what kind of person you are? Most of us do not, and this is why we think about a reader’s experience engaging with our work, but we do not address the reader with identifying or assuming remarks. Some of us may have heard that we must never use the personal pronouns “I,” “me,” “myself,” “my,” or “mine” in our writing, but I disagree. Your own experience can be a valuable addition to an essay if relevant and used appropriately. I would advise, however, to avoid the personal pronouns of the second person: “you” and “your.” These pronouns address the reader directly and cause the reader to pause and ask if the writer is correct in his or her assumptions. This tends to act as a distraction, pulling the reader out of the context of the paper.

Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey
Writing Instructor



2018 SUMMER 2-WEEK COS GRADUATES

Walter Reichle, Brian Johnson, Ed Wagner, Todd Shafer, Jackie Raineri, Herman Dick

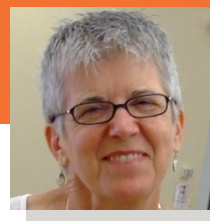


Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2019 Winter	Feb 8-9 & Mar 8-9	12/10/2018	NO
2019 Spring	Apr 5-6 & May 3-4	2/4/2019	NO
2019 Summer	June 21-22 & July 12-13	4/22/2019	YES
2019 Summer Int	Aug 5-9 & 12-15	6/6/2019	YES

2018 FALL COS FACULTY

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Rebeka Maples

VIEW FROM THE COORDINATOR



Terri Litchfield



Tom Snyder

COS 124: Transformative Leadership

Rev. Tom Snyder received his Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology. A retired Elder in the East Ohio Conference, he served United Methodist congregations for 36 years.

Paul Kim

COS 221 Bible II: Torah & Israel's History

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim received his M.Div. and Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from the Claremont School of Theology. A Presbyterian elder, he currently teaches Hebrew Bible at MTSO.



Jeff Jaynes

COS 322 Theological Heritage III: Medieval-Reformation

Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes received an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. A Presbyterian elder, he currently teaches Church History at MTSO.



Don Dotterer

COS 324 Preaching

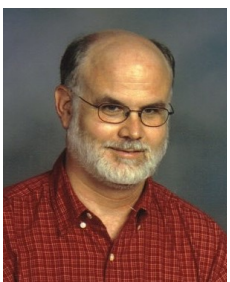
Dr. Donald W. Dotterer received both his M.Div. and Ph.D. in Theology and Philosophy of Religion from Boston University. He is presently Senior Pastor of Faith Community United Methodist Church in Rochester, PA.



John Wallace

COS 423 : Mission

Rev. Dr. John Wallace received his M.Div. from Candler School of Theology and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He is a retired elder of the West Ohio Conference.



Mark Powell

Bible V: Acts, Epistles & Revelation

Dr. Mark Allan Powell received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and his Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He is Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.



“You’re not in control”

I don't know why I have a hard time conveying to my colleagues in ministry why I love working with Course of Study. I think one reason is that many of them are elders and do not understand what it means to be a local pastor or the demands of COS. Being in ministry is not only a response to a call but it is a labor of love, and local pastors, at least the ones I know, embody that response in their love for serving God in the church. So, why is that so hard to describe?

Maybe it is because the work I do with COS is stimulated by your responses to being in worship. Many of you tell me how much a reading or service touched you and you want the resources or copies to use in your churches. Your passion and sincerity encourage me to seek more resources and to prepare more services. Let's face it, no pastor has enough time to research and exegete as much as you would like for every service.

That's where I come in, to assist in the process, to remind you to trust the "slow work of God" and allow the Spirit to do what it will, because what you do is important. It's important to know that, and to accept that you're not in control and that it doesn't all depend on you. You're not in control of other family members, of the weather, of that project at work, of the way a church program plays out. You're not in control, and you were never meant to be. You were meant to be a participant, a co-creator in the process of working with God through the Spirit, that's all, (see "The Soul Tells a Story: Engaging Creativity with Spirituality in the Writing Life" by Vinita Hampton Wright).

Sometimes when we are open to this process, creative and inspirational things happen. We become conduits for the Spirit and bearers for the Light, when we can become Christ for others as well as for ourselves. That possibility is alive in each of us but we can't control it, we can only be open to it. I come closest to seeing that side of holiness when I get a glimpse of God in the hope and humility you embody, and the charity that you long to offer, even as Christ did. The problem is there never seems to be enough time to realize or reflect on what you are doing or whether Christ is in control. You just know that it is the right thing to do, and it is the way Christ is leading you. Many things are out of our control, but the only thing in our control is how we respond in each moment. We can be Christ or we can be the impatient, overworked pastor who desperately wants to make a difference but never quite makes it. Many of the local pastors whom I know have found the balance of not trying to be in control and simply be Christ. That's how I describe why I love working with Course of Study. Thank you, local pastors, for your inspiration.

I want to introduce you to MTSO individuals who sometimes work behind the scenes to make sure Course of Study sessions go smoothly. You'll see James Lance if you stay in the dorm and if you go through the line in the dining hall. (James, we're glad you're here!)

Greeting COS students,



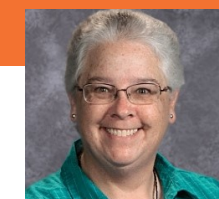
My name is James Lance and I am the new Dewire building manager. I am currently a second year MDiv student at MTSO. I am also currently serving a two point charge at Martel UMC and Sixteen UMC in East Ohio Conference.

I am taking a deeper look into pastoral care/counseling classes and Christian Ethics courses. I have also completed some studies in scripture with a focus in New Testament. I look forward to working with you all!

James Lance

Send COS transcript requests to Pamela Frost, cosregistrar@gbhem.org. Include your full name, PID#, annual conference, and date of birth. She'll return it quickly by email.

CHOIR NEWS



Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director

The COSSO Choir is a friendly group which strives to enhance worship through voices and other musical instruments. We perform all kinds of music; from rap to hymns to contemporary worship songs to original pieces written by fellow pastors. Rehearsal is Saturday morning 7:30-7:45 am in the choir room and we perform later that morning as part of the worship service. Take a break from your studies and make a joyful noise with us!