

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the 2019 Summer 2-Week Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

In *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*, Eugene Peterson laments that American pastors “are preoccupied with shopkeeper’s concerns—how to keep the customers happy, how to lure customers away from competitors down the street, how to package the goods so that the customers will lay out more money.” He then stresses that “the pastor’s responsibility is to keep the community [of faith] attentive to God.”

It is easy for ministers to simply give “ceremonial attention” to God without seriously attending to God in all matters of ministry. Yet, for us to stay true to our calling, it is essential to remain in touch with God’s presence and action in relation to ourselves, communities of faith, and the world. Only by gaining “a trained attentiveness to God” through prayer and Scripture reading, we can faithfully live out the pastoral vocation rather than merely do religious jobs. I hope that your theological education at COSSO will help you cultivate the kind of theological reflection and spiritual formation required for developing and sustaining pastoral integrity.

Let me call your attention to the new prerequisite policy recently approved by the GBHEM Division of Ordained Ministry: “Effective June 1, 2019, COS 121 (Bible 1: Introduction) and COS 122 (Theological Heritage 1: Introduction) will be prerequisites for enrollment in any other Course of Study courses.” Since these are foundational courses that provide *basic instruction and a shared language for biblical interpretation and theological reflection in the United Methodist ethos*, GBHEM believes that it would be crucial that they be taken prior to other COS courses. During the transition period (June 1, 2019–June 1, 2020), I will work with students on a case-by-case basis to determine the best way for them to both continue the studies and meet this new requirement.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Grace Wallace as the new COSSO Coordinator, effective June 1. A graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut, she is detail-oriented, highly organized, and hard working. Above all, she is committed to helping you to have a rich, transformative learning experience here at COSSO. Please join with me in welcoming and praying for her as the newest member of the COSSO staff.

All of us on the COSSO staff are excited to welcome you all—including four new students and four graduating students—to the campus of MTSO. May God’s grace and guidance continue to be with you throughout your COS journey.

Grace and peace,

Joon-Sik Park

Dr. Joon-Sik Park
Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COSSO NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

Though all writing done at COSSO is academic, and therefore formal in style, it does not mean that the writing should be impersonal. We sometimes think of “formal” writing as having some distance between the text and the writer, but this is not the case. In fact, in some instances you will be required to write about yourself through a personal narrative essay. In a nutshell, a personal narrative essay means sharing an experience from your life to create an emotional reaction in your reader—reactions such as laughing out loud, tears, frustration, disappointment, etc. Personal narratives aim to bring the reader into the author’s experience, making something specific and personal accessible to others. When writing your personal narrative essay, you will want your readers interested in your story from the get-go. Do this by beginning your introduction with a compelling hook that sparks interest or curiosity. The great liberator of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, began his autobiography: “*Apart from life, a strong constitution, and an abiding connection to the Thembu royal house, the only thing my father bestowed upon me at birth was a name, Rolihlahla.*” This line draws the reader in while giving important information about the relationship Mandela had with his father. The abolitionist hero Frederick Douglass invites the reader into the reality of slavery in the introduction to his autobiography: “*I do not remember to have ever met a slave who could tell of his birthday. They seldom come nearer to it than planting-time, harvest-time, cherry-time, spring-time, or fall-time.*” Whereas many biographies begin with the subject’s birth details, Douglass shows the reader that even in this event common to all humanity, the yoke of slavery penetrates and disrupts every aspect of the human experience. Do not be afraid to add a bit of yourself in your writing assignments.

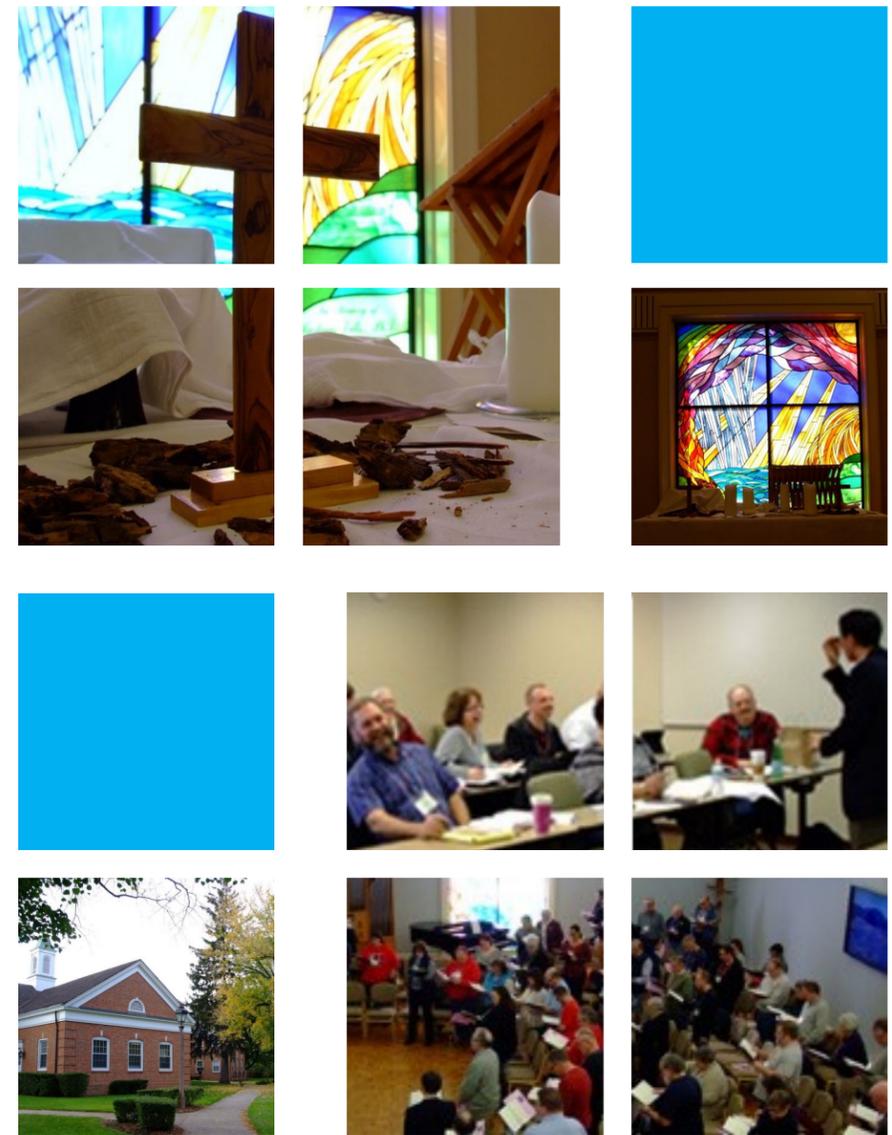
Sincerely,

Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey
Writing Instructor



2019 SUMMER COS GRADUATES

Dan Holt, Josh Ricketts, and David Rood



COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2020 Winter	Feb. 14-15 & Mar 13-14	12/16/2019	Nearly full
2020 Spring	Apr. 17-18 & May 15-16	2/17/2019	Nearly full
2020 Summer	June 26-27 & Jul. 17-18	4/27/2020	OPEN
2020 Summer 2-Week	August 3-7 & 10-13	6/4/2020	OPEN

2019 SUMMER 2-WEEK COS FACULTY



Paul Kim

COS 121 Bible I: Introduction

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.

Tejai Beulah

COS 222 Theological Heritage II: Early Church

Dr. Tejai Beulah received her MTS from Methodist Theological School in Ohio and her Ph.D. from Drew University. She is currently Coordinator of Partnerships and Black Church and African Diaspora Specialization at MTSO.



Mark Powell

COS 321 Bible III: Gospels

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.



Lisa Withrow

COS 124 Transformative Leadership

Rev. Dr. Lisa Withrow received her M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and her Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow. She is Professor of Christian Leadership at MTSO.



William H. Wilson

COS 522 Theology in the Contemporary Church

Rev. Dr. William H. Wilson received his M.Th. from Perkins School of Theology and his D.Min. from Drew University. A retired elder in the West Virginia Annual Conference, he served as Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop from 2004 to 2013.



Jeff Greenway

COS 523 Evangelism

Rev. Dr. Jeff Greenway received his M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and his D.Min. in Evangelism from Wesley Theological Seminary. He serves as Lead Pastor of Reynoldsburg UMC in Reynoldsburg, OH.



Robin Knowles Wallace

COS 223 Worship & Sacraments

Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace received her MTS from Candler School of Theology and her Ph.D. from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University. She is Professor of Worship and Music at MTSO.



Glen Alton Messer II

COS 422 Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement

Dr. Glen Messer received his Th.D. and M.Div. from Boston University. From 2012 to 2016 he served as Associate Ecumenical Staff Officer for Theology and Dialogue with the UMC Council of Bishops Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

It's a common phrase. In his "Daily Meditation," Richard Rohr claims, "What you seek is also what you get." That reminds me of words by Frederick Douglass that have stuck with me since graduate school, "What you work on works on you."

So, what are you seeking? And what are you working on that will help you obtain your deep desires? Most spiritual leaders seek to have a closer relationship with God. My problem is, I seek ways to deepen my spiritual practices and be attentive to the presence of God in my daily routine, and I also fail at my good intentions. Then, I feel as though I'm not dedicated enough or faithful enough and I give up working on what I started. Instead, I spend my time working on feeling inadequate, and guess what? I feel inadequate. The cycle continues until something or someone reminds me that I have a calling and that calling never stops. Oh, it changes along the way, but God never stops calling us to be complete and whole people, followers of Christ, children of a forgiving God.

And not only that, the gospels tell us to love one another and to challenge each other in truth and love. In our lives and ministry, we are called into community, and that community extends beyond our churches. In fact, we are part of multiple communities in one body, the body of Christ. Oh, yes, we know this, we preach this, and we work on living into this; and oh, how we fail. Yet, our struggle to life in community is not a blame game or three strikes and you're out. It is an on-going process of living out our calling as Christians. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his work, Life Together, writes about community and our need for striving to maintain it through spiritual practices - scripture, prayer, meditation, the Lord's Supper.

I have been blessed to be part of spiritual formation in COSSO since 2007. I have greeted new and returning students, and cried and celebrated with graduating students. I am thankful for our worship and prayer time together, and I have grown closer to God in the process. I have grown to understand that this is a unique community where I am held accountable and loved unconditionally. My prayer is that you too will learn to experience community while you are part of COS, and that in our life together as community we will all work on growing closer to God, through the spiritual practices which work best for each of us. For "what you work on works on you," and "what you seek is also what you get."



Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples
COS Director of Spiritual Formation

NEW COS STUDENT ASSISTANT

Greetings COS Family,

It is nice to meet you! My name is Carolyn Kwon and I am the new student assistant for COSSO.

I am an Ohio native, born and raised in Columbus. I graduated from THE Ohio State University and am starting my third year as a M.Div/MACM dual degree student at MTSO. I enjoy listening to music, watching too many TV shows on Netflix, and meeting new people.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all. I know I have big shoes to fill (Shin, we miss you!) but I will try my best to assist you in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Carolyn K.

COS Student Assistant



COS CHOIR NEWS

Psalm 150 reminds us that everything that has breath is to praise the Lord. All who have breath are invited to join our COS choir! The ability to read music is optional.

Choir rehearsal is in the choir room (just off the Centrum) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:00pm. We will provide the special music for the Eucharist Services.

The choir needs people who enjoy making a joyful noise through singing and playing musical instruments. For more information or to receive the music ahead of time, please send me an email at LDouglass@mtso.edu.



Lori Douglas Weaver
COS Music Director