

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the 2019 Summer 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 could 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 three 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

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Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio

E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism

FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

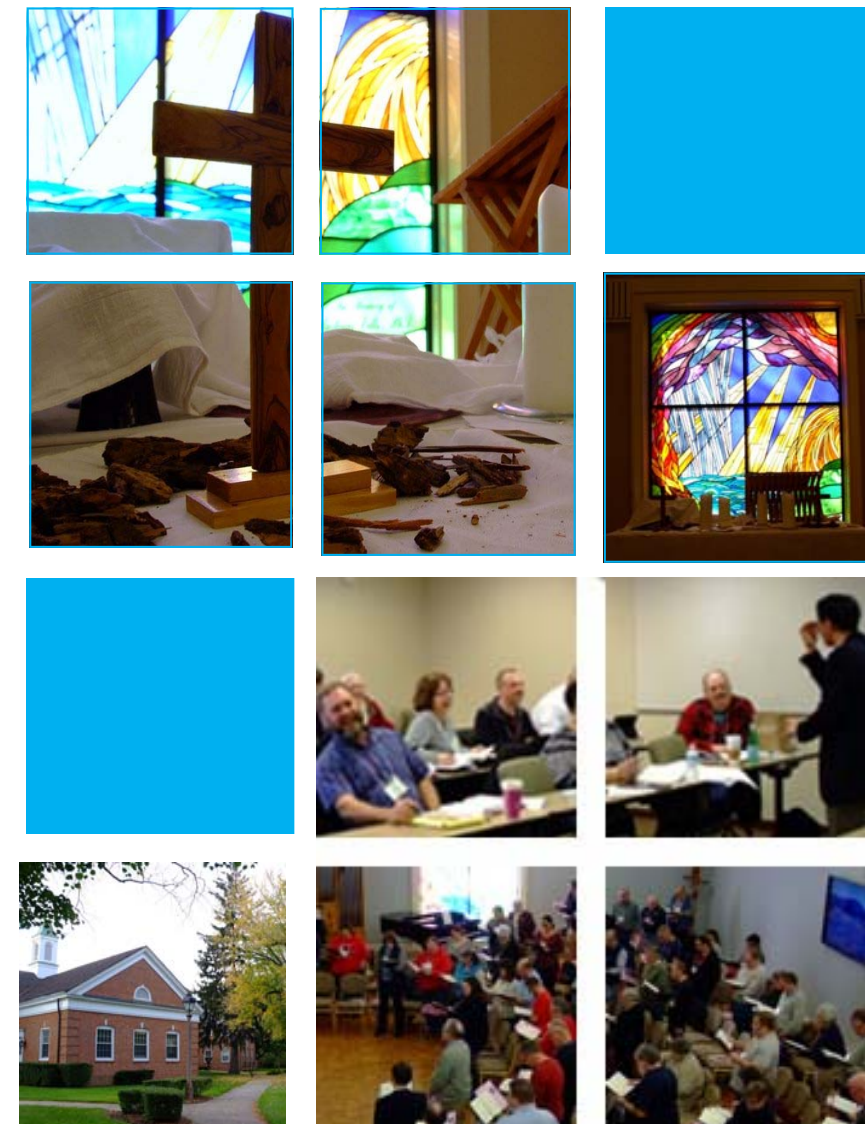
Though all writing done at COSSO is academic, and therefore formal in style, it does not mean that the writing should be impersonal. We sometimes think of “formal” writing as having some distance between the text and the writer, but this is not the case. In fact, in some instances you will be required 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.



Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey
Writing Instructor

2019 SPRING COS GRADUATES

John Baney, Scott Loomis, Calvin Cook



Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

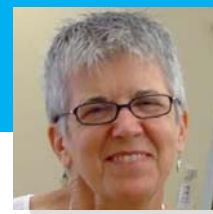
Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2019 Summer 2-Week	Aug 5-9 & 12-15	6/6/2019	NO
2019 Fall	Sep. 27-28 & Oct. 25-26	7/29/2019	NO
2020 Winter	Feb. 14-15 & Mar 13-14	12/16/2019	YES
2020 Spring	Apr. 17-18 & May 15-16	2/17/2019	YES

COSSO NEWSLETTER

Volume 30
Summer 2019

2019 WINTER COS FACULTY

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Rebeka Maples

VIEW FROM THE COORDINATOR



Grace Wallace



J. Gary Campbell

COS 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction
Rev. Dr. J. Gary Campbell received his Th.M. from Harvard Divinity School and his D.Min. from Asbury Theological Seminary. A retired elder in West Ohio Conference, he served in numerous states as District Superintendent and pastor.

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.



Thomas A. Rand

COS 324 Preaching
Rev. Dr. Thomas Rand received his M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary and his Ph.D. from GETS/ Northwestern University. He currently serves as Pastor of First UMC of Sylvania in West Ohio.

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. A retired elder of the West Ohio Conference, he served churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio.



Mark Powell

COS 521 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.

YES, I BELIEVE!

I believe in God, Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit... and I believe in the church...

Pentecost has come and gone. Or has it? Oh, how I love the church calendar and the ways it reminds us that God is always with us! What a gift – the Holy Spirit in a calendar, reminding us that God is with us, Christ is alive! If we didn't have God's Spirit moving among us, nothing would make sense! Which is why I also believe in science, helping us understand what God has done, is doing, and will do, otherwise nothing would make sense! And it all comes together in this strange and amazing gift at Pentecost.

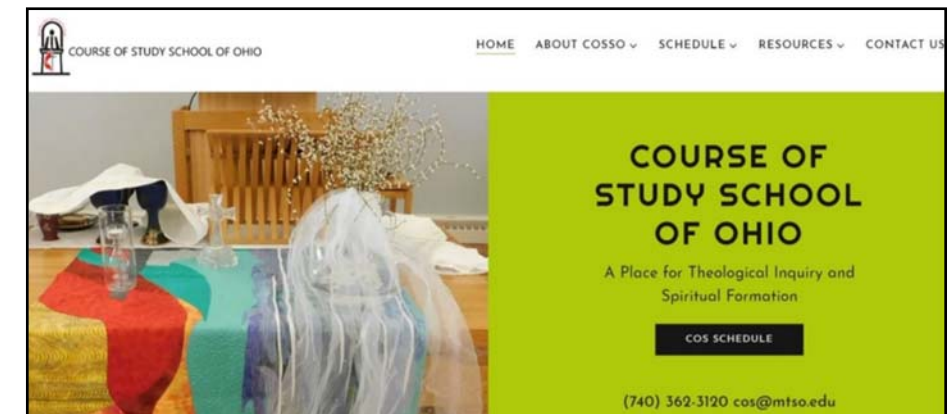
I believe this is a fabulous time to be alive, in spite of the negative voices that seek to draw us away from God and each other. And yes, I believe those voices, which the early Christians called Satan and demons, are still with us, trying to get us to abandon the gifts of God, the Spirit and all Creation. Yet, human consciousness and knowledge has persisted and accepted what God can do, is doing, and will do through us.

I believe that the Spirit has led us through wildernesses and to mountain tops, and we have seen the power of God and received the flames of fire and the breath of holiness. God speaks and is speaking through and among us, all people and all creation. I believe our task is to ignore what devalues and receive what is good, the Spirit of God, moving where it will and resting on each one of us.

Yes, I believe the Spirit of God still blows through the church and reminds us to see that Christ is alive. We are anointed and empowered by the Spirit of Pentecost. May this reminder, in the middle of another calendar year, be enough to move you through the summer!

Thank you so much to everyone for your gracious welcome and support as I shift into this new position!

Another change is coming to the Course of Study School of Ohio: an update to our website at the end of June. The site will remain at <https://www.cosohio.org/>. It will have all of the same information with an updated look, and will work better on mobile devices than the old version. If you have any trouble finding anything on it after the update, please get in touch with me (gwallace@mtso.edu or 740-362-3120) and I can point you in the right direction. Here's a sneak peek at the new look for the site:



COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- For Fall 2019, COS 222 and COS 323 are now FULL.
- For Winter 2020, we've added a section of COS 121
- For Spring 2020, we've added a section of COS 122.
- For Fall 2020, we've added a section of COS 321

CHOIR NEWS



Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director

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 Saturday morning from 7:30-7:45, right before the Morning Prayer Service. We provide the special music for the Eucharist Service which occurs later the same morning. 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.