

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

When Gordon Cosby, cofounder of the Church of the Saviour in D.C., passed away in 2013, some said that “Gordon and the Church of the Saviour have had a greater impact on the Protestant church in America over the past 50 years than any other institution or movement.” My own ecclesiology and view of mission have certainly been affected by the Church of the Saviour.

In the early 1990s I happened to pick up a copy of *Journey Inward, Journey Outward* (1968) by Elizabeth O'Connor—a book about the Church of the Saviour and its ministry—at a used bookstore. As I was reading it, the understanding of the nature and purpose of the church, as well as the practice of ministry, presented in the book were so refreshing and integral that they literally gripped my attention.

The basic thesis of *Journey Inward, Journey Outward* is that the renewal of the church depends on the continual renewal within its members. True renewal cannot come to the church unless its people are on both inward and outward journeys. The inward journey must not be sacrificed to the outward, nor the outward to the inward. Both journeys should be kept in creative tension. In fact, a genuine inward journey should lead to an outward journey.

For our inward journey, we have to embrace the disciplines of prayer, Word, silence, solitude, study, and worship. Through these disciplines, we are to be so nurtured in discipleship that Christ would always have priority in our lives and that we would always be open to the renewing, transforming, and guiding Spirit of God. The outward journey concerns being involved in mission in and for the world. We are called to discern where we are to take up the stance of the servant, or to which needs of the world Christ is sending us.

Yet both inward and outward journeys cannot be done individually. Community is an essential bridge that connects both journeys. Christian community is the most rewarding and the most essential to those on inward and outward journeys. It is the community in which we are sustained and held up, and through which we together find out what following Christ involves.

I prayerfully hope that the classes you take at the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO) will transformatively shape and guide your inward and outward journeys as well as those of your congregations.

I, along with everyone on the COSSO staff, look forward to welcoming all of you—including eighteen new students and three graduating students—to the 2019 Winter Term of COSSO.

Grace and peace,

Joon-Sik Park

E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COSSO NEWSLETTER
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FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

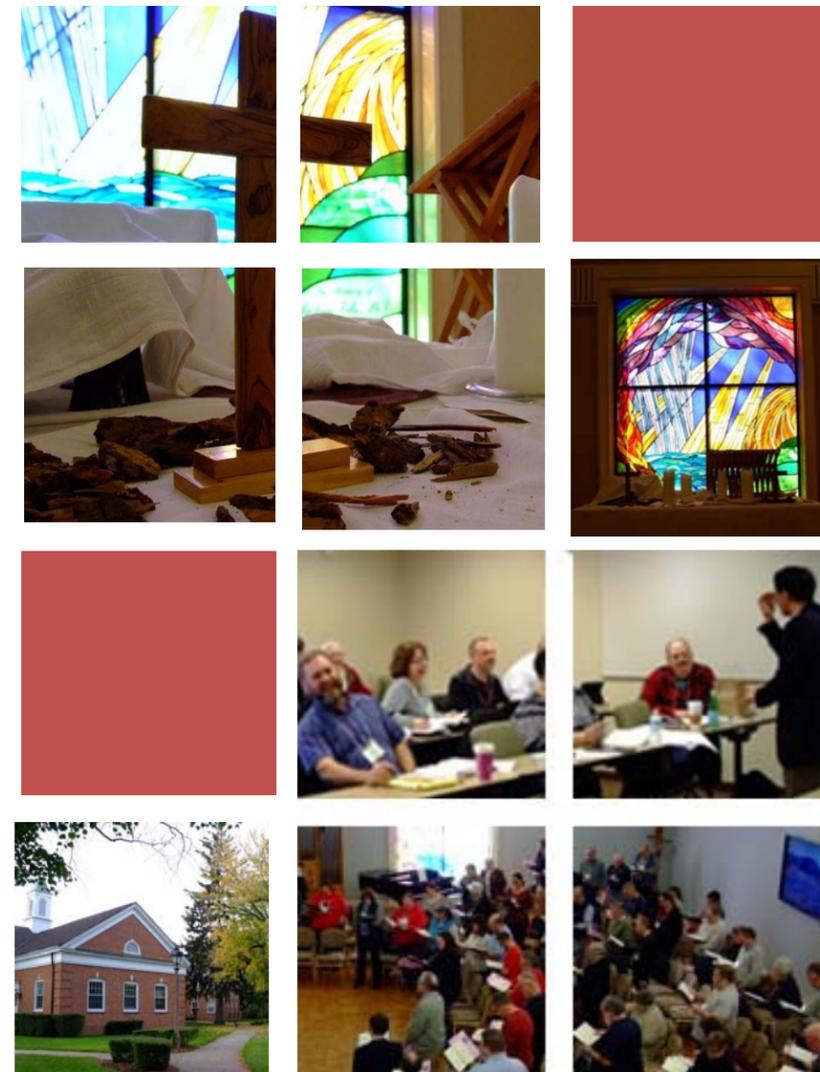
As many students learn from the Biblical scholars at COSSO, context is key when approaching ancient texts. It is helpful to know that when Esther speaks about Ahasuerus, King of Persia, she is referring to Xerxes I. It may even be vital to understanding a passage. Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan has little impact if we know nothing of the Samaritans and how they were perceived by Judeans. If context is this important to consider when reading a text, how much more important is it to consider when writing? The most common reason writers are misunderstood is that they fail to adequately contextualize the points they want to make. Contextualizing requires the writer to imagine the role of a reader who does not necessarily have the same knowledge or experiences. This largely depends on the intended audience. For example, if I were writing to Christians in general, I should not assume they are American or Methodist. Beginning with understanding your audience allows you to accurately consider which information needs to be included for your point to be understood, and which information is unnecessary to provide and would be tedious for the reader to go through. A broader audience requires more contextual information. A physicist discussing quantum mechanics with other physicists sounds very different than a physicist explaining quantum mechanics to a general audience, for example. Though you cannot anticipate every individual reader, a general idea of who you are writing to will shape your writing into an effective communicative vessel. Further, by demonstrating an awareness of your audience through appropriate contextualization, you increase the likelihood that your ideas will resonate or ‘connect’ with one of your readers, and this is the quintessence of the joy of writing.



Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey
Writing Instructor

2018 FALL COS GRADUATES

Jerry Sutton, Bev Williams, Colleen Wierman, Patty Humphress, Daniel Pelzel, David Stephens, and Laurie Krieg



Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2019 Spring	Apr 5-6 & May 3-4	2/4/2019	NO
2019 Summer	June 21-22 & July 12-13	4/22/2019	NO
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

2019 WINTER 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.

Robin Knowles Wallace

COS 223: Worship & Sacraments

Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace received her M.T.S. 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.



Mark Powell

COS 321 Bible: 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.

Glen Alton Messer II

COS 422 Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement

Dr. Glen Messer received his Th.D. and M.Div. from Boston University. He is associate ecumenical staff officer for theology and dialogue with the UMC Council of Bishops Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.



Rundall Haase

COS 523: Evangelism

Rev. Randall Haase received his M.Div. from MTSO. He is a mentor in the United Methodist Candidacy process and currently serves as a full-time Elder in the South Carolina Conference at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sumter, South Carolina.

ONE YEAR ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

You are crossing into unknown territory and God is already there; looking over you and all that is, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. Follow in goodness – loving creation and its Creator with all your heart and soul, and you will be a blessing. (paraphrase from Deuteronomy 11:12)

One year ends, another begins. Listen, for everything belongs.

Even as we enter a new year and begin new projects and ministries, we are still in recovery mode from Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Now, we are fast approaching a new season, with Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter on the horizon. And still, reflections from last year are roaming, longing to be recognized. A good time to begin again with that New Year's list and the "pray more" item.

Okay, so I know you know the positive impact of prayer, why we need it and why God needs us to engage in it. So, this is just a reminder because pastors do not always listen to what they are teaching (or preaching). Whether you are back in a good prayer routine or the busyness has taken over that spot, here are few words of encouragement that praying is always worth it.

Prayer connects us with the rest of the world and provides a conduit for our concerns about our lives and all that is happening around us. We can easily become overwhelmed with conditions that are out of our control and ignore the one thing that is in our control – prayer. This does not negate our efforts in ministry or mean we have given up on making a difference in people's lives, in our communities and the world, or the environment. In fact, prayer is action. It is active engagement in what is happening around us, asking God to intercede with us, broadening our understanding, so together we can bring the world to its true home, where the words, "peace on earth," are not a cliché only found in Christmas cards.

As we enter a new year, there will be some "unknown territory" and challenges that we never expected, so relying on prayer will be even more crucial. One simple practice is to choose a passage from scripture or your favorite devotional and begin reading. Read slowly, then pause with a verse or phrase and sit quietly, pay attention to how the words touch you. Continue to reflect and ask God to guide you. Write your thoughts in a journal, or simply sit with them without doing anything. By engaging in these focused moments, you are engaging in the very struggle that troubles you. Don't jump to any conclusions, listen and wait for understanding to evolve. It is not a stretch of the imagination to assume that your prayer is joined with others around the world who are praying for similar things. Embrace this understanding, be in the community of prayer, as you step into this new year.

A big welcome to COS Assistant, Grace Wallace! I've asked her to introduce herself here. You will see her during Course of Study sessions and may receive emails from her.



Hi, I'm Grace Wallace, the new Course of Study Assistant, working alongside Shin.

I grew up a United Methodist preacher's kid, and later also a UM seminary professor's kid, in Michigan, Wisconsin, and West Ohio. Some of you may be taking or have taken COS courses taught by my parents, Robin Knowles Wallace (223: Worship & Sacraments) and John Wallace (423: Mission).

I worked at Course of Study in 2006 and 2007 until I left to finish my bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. It's good to be back! COS has gone more digital over the last 10+ years (I'm grateful to no longer have to do a big syllabus mailing) but the students and fellow staff continue to be as nice as ever. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you!

In addition to my work at COS, I also do pet sitting, mostly for cats. In my free time I enjoy vegan cooking, reading, watching tv/movies, listening to music, and researching genealogy.

CHOIR NEWS



Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director

As the old saying goes, the one who sings prays twice. All are invited to join our COS choir. The ability to read music is optional.

Rehearsal is Saturday morning 7:30-7:45 AM in the choir room (off the centrum). We perform one song during the Eucharist Service before lunch that same day. Bring your voice, brass, woodwind, string and percussion instruments as we make a joyful noise in praise to our Almighty God. If you would like the music ahead of time, please send me an email at <LDouglass@mtso.edu>.