

## Course of Study School of Ohio

[www.cosohio.org](http://www.cosohio.org)

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2020 Summer	June 26-27 & Jul. 17-18	4/27/2020	FULL
2020 Summer 2-Week	August 3-7 & 10-13	6/4/2020	FULL
2020 Fall	Sept. 25-26 & Oct. 23-24	7/27/2020	FULL
2021 Winter	Feb. 12-13 & Mar 12-13	12/14/2020	OPEN

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**L**et me welcome all of you, including three new and one graduating students, to the 2020 Spring Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

For all us, a Lenten journey with social distancing was a strange and unprecedented experience. There probably was a great sense of loss in not being able to be physically together to commemorate the passion of Jesus and share the overflowing joy of his resurrection. Yet I trust that God's grace was sufficient, and that you and your congregations had a meaningful and blessed Easter!

In this new reality affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we would need a "resurrection imagination" more than ever. We would need to be able to see and discern the life-giving presence of Jesus and signs of resurrection in the midst of fear and death. As New Testament scholar Stan Saunders well put it, without a resurrection imagination, Christians and churches will "inevitably become blinded by the 'realities' of this world" ("Discernment on the Way to Emmaus: Resurrection Imagination and Practices in Luke 24:13-35," *Journal for Preachers* 20/2 [1997]: 44-49).

A faithful Christian witness requires seeing clearly and proclaiming boldly that it is the resurrected Lord who now reigns, and not the principalities and powers of this world. This "resurrection imagination" can be cultivated and nurtured as the community of faith seeks to be faithful to both the gospel message and its own ministry context and is prayerfully committed to discerning and making a fitting response to the activity of God in history.

Since COSSO finds great value in holding face-to-face classes, it was not an easy decision to offer the spring term courses fully online. Yet I am confident that this new format could still help you have an enriching, transformative learning experience with the COS faculty working hard to adapt their class for an online environment and the COSSO staff being committed to providing needed support. All of us—students, faculty, and staff—would need to be a little more patient and generous to each other while adjusting to new ways of teaching and learning.

Remembering those facing acute health and economic concerns worldwide, please join with me in praying a prayer written by the National Council of Churches in Australia:

Gracious God,  
 We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.  
 We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.  
 We pray for those in need of healing.  
 We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.  
 We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.  
 We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.  
 We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.  
 This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Peace,

**Dr. Joon-Sik Park**

*Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio  
 E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism*



## FROM THE WRITING LAB

The son and brother of two different U.S. Presidents, Jeb Bush sought the presidency in 2016, but withdrew after receiving a disappointingly low level of voter support. The failure of his campaign has been summed up by his own words and became a "meme" for others to borrow. Those words were spoken at a campaign event, when after delivering part of his speech that he expected would thrill the crowds but was met with only silence, he begged his listeners, "Please clap." Just like voters sussing out candidates, no reader, be it a professor or a devourer of romance novels, likes to be told how to react or what to think. For this reason, we should avoid reacting in the text of our writing. Exclamations in the midst of our narrative or argument distract the reader from having their own reaction. For example, while it may feel perfectly natural to pause to express a feeling such as, "Wow!" or "Praise the Lord!" it is not natural for a reader to be told to have a reaction of the same type. Therefore, it is much better to write in such a descriptive way that the reader, of their own accord, can have the reaction you desire, such as "Amen!" without reading it in the text. This can be counterintuitive to experienced sermonizers, because in oral communication it is expected to prompt your audience: "Can I get an amen?" This is an important distinction between academic writing and speech, and while we may think of them both as language, they have much less in common than people suppose. If you write an academic essay according to the conventions of spoken English, you will always be disappointed by the effect it has on the reader.

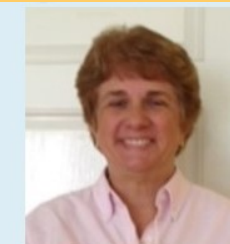


**Dr. Trad Noguiera-Godsey**  
*Writing Instructor*

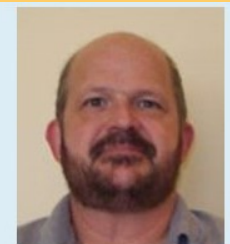
## 2020 WINTER GRADUATES— CONGRATULATIONS!



**John Carpenter**



**Janet Pratt**



**Rob Pryor**



**MaryAnn Rufener**



**Ryan Stroud**



**David Tennant**



## MEET YOUR PROFESSORS



**Rev. Dr. 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.

**Rev. 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.



**Dr. Tejai Beulah**

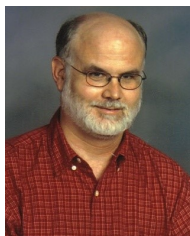
COS 222: Theological Heritage II: Early Church

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.

**Rev. Dr. Britt Leslie**

COS 321 Bible III: Gospels

Rev. Dr. Britt Leslie received his Th.M. and Ph.D. from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. A United Methodist elder, he is currently Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Manchester University in Indiana and South



**Rev. Dr. 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.

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster**

COS 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster received her M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology and her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University. An elder in the North Texas Annual Conference, she is Professor of Theology at MTSO.



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### WE ARE STITCHED TOGETHER

And here we are... in the wilderness, trying to stay connected. Who would have thought Lent would lead us in this direction? It's not what we planned on doing in the season of Lent, but here we are. And if you look around you'll see some amazing things, ways God is working and blessing us in spite of the anxiety we all feel. Sure, you cannot visit the sick, do funerals or weddings, or baptize the flock, but you are finding ways to bless those around you with online worship, phone calls, notes and prayer. All of that is a blessing, while we are keeping are distance and staying home.

Dealing with the spread of Covid-19 is not easy, but then neither is the wilderness journey, and we are in a wilderness of sorts, forced to survive on our own, forced to silence the voices that demand our attention, and eventually, forced to turn to God. And is that not what Lent is all about: calling us to step away, use a fast that turns us around, stop the busyness and set aside time for prayer. The wilderness does this. If you have ever taken a silent or directed retreat this is what you might experience. First, you ask yourself, why am I here? What am I going to do with all this "quiet" time? Then you say, I don't have time for this. There is too much to do. What was I thinking? And slowly you resign yourself to do a little reading and praying and taking a walk, and slowly you do more because you are by yourself, and slowly, slowly your day is full and you are exhausted by the time you go to bed. That's where we are. We are in a new space, a shutdown/lockdown, virus-created retreat space, and it feels more and more like the wilderness. But wilderness space is not all bad, and I am sure you are discovering that too. We are finding new ways to stay connected to each other and to God, and we are praying more and reaching out more, as we await a new day of resurrection!

I am enjoying reading all the Lenten devotions I have collected through the years and all the places they take me on this virus-created wilderness journey. They lead me into new territory and I discover surprising blossoms that were probably there all the time, in all the ways that people are staying connected and reaching out to each other - they are legion! I saw a post on Facebook of people sewing homemade masks, so I thought I would try. Got my sewing machine dusted off, found some fabric tucked away and *voila*, masks were made. In the process, I found that this is not only an avenue to connect with others, it is a blessing to me. While I cut out and sew the masks, I pray for the people who will use them, for the work they are doing, for healing and for a kinder, humbler world. It reminds me that the negative voices and conspiracy theorists do not rule the day. There is a Voice that still speaks through whatever space we are in, and that Voice will lead us through whatever wilderness we face.

Until the next time we gather together, here are a few words from my prayer-sewing wilderness space for you to ponder in your wilderness time:

### ONE STITCH AT A TIME

Weaving time through the fabric of life:  
by design and redesign,  
torn and tattered,  
used and new,  
sewing seams together,  
separated by color,  
drawn into patterns.

The weaver weaves,  
the sewer sews,  
one stitch at a time,  
overlapping strands, serging seams,  
tearing out, starting over.  
It all hangs by a thread,  
keeps the world from spinning out  
and caving in.

By design or redesign,  
the threads of life  
are intertwined,  
each stitch needs the other  
to hold and keep  
all the pieces  
stitched together.

@Rebeka Maples



**Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples**  
Spiritual Formation Director

## FROM THE COORDINATOR

Thank you all for your adaptability and graciousness in these difficult times!

As your classes start online, please note that I have posted directions for Populi and Zoom our website at <https://cosohio.org/populi>. If anything isn't covered there, please ask me! My office phone is redirecting to me at home so you can still call. I'll also be available whenever your online class meetings begin to meet, so if you have tech issues then, please get in touch!

### COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- 2020 Summer COS 323: Congregational Care is full. COS 323 is next offered in 2021 Spring term.
- 2020 Summer COS 422: Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement is full. COS 422 is next offered in the 2021 Fall term.
- 2020 Fall COS 223: Worship & Sacraments is full. COS 223 is next offered in the 2021 Summer and 2021 Summer 2-week (afternoon) terms.
- 2020 Fall COS 324: Preaching is full. COS 324 is also offered in the 2020 Summer 2-week (morning) and 2021 Winter terms.



**Grace Wallace**  
Coordinator

## FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

As the old saying goes, "*the one who sings prays twice.*" We look forward to singing together again when we can safely meet in person.



**Lori Douglas Weaver, MEd**  
Choir Director