



Course of Study School of Ohio

www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2021 Fall 422 and 524 are FULL	Sept 24-25 & Oct 22-23	7/26/2021	Meeting fully online
2022 Winter 323 is FULL	Feb 11-12 (18-19 makeup) & Mar 4-5 (11-12 makeup)	12/13/2021	Available
2022 Spring	April 1-2 & May 6-7	1/31/2022	Available
2022 Summer	June 24-25 & July 15-16	4/25/2022	Available
2022 Summer 2-Week	Aug 8-12 and 15-18	6/9/2022	Available

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Let me welcome all of you, including five new and seven graduating students, to the 2021 Summer Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

Kenneth Leech (1939–2015), an Anglican priest and theologian, has been formative in the development of my understanding of Christian spirituality. He once lamented that “most of those who pray are not praying about social issues and most of those who are active in social issues are not praying very much” (*The Eye of the Storm*). One of the challenges facing the church today is to integrate contemplation and action or prayer and social justice.

In “The Soul and the Social Order” (*Weavings* 1/2 [1986]) Leech lists three forms of a “misshapen spirituality.” The first is a spirituality that is wholly inward-oriented and gets away from the realities of the world. Then, there is one which finds itself very much at home in the status quo of the existing order. Another distorted form of spirituality “push[es] the hope for this world into a distant millennial age,” giving up its efforts for the transformation of the world here and now.

To overcome these distorted forms of spirituality, Leech calls attention to the centrality of the Incarnation as the basis for integral Christian spirituality. The fact that the Word became flesh means that any dualism between spirit and material or church and world is false. True prayer brings about “clarity of vision”—the ability to discern the signs of the times as well as the nature of evil in the world—and leads to struggles against injustice and violence. As Leech well put it, “Christian contemplation . . . can never be an alternative to Christian action; it is, rather, its lifeblood and its constant companion.”

As we almost daily witness the destructive power of racism, hate crime, and terrorism in our society and worldwide, we realize more acutely than ever the importance of uniting prayer and social justice. I hope that your theological learning and spiritual formation at COSSO would be instrumental in attaining the integration of prayer and prophetic witness both in your personal journey and in the mission of your congregation.

As announced, our classes will continue to be offered fully online through the Fall Term this year due to the pandemic. I hope that we would be able to go back to in-person classes in 2022.

All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you during this Summer Term.

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



FROM THE WRITING LAB

The use of scholarly sources in academic writing is a common and expected part of scholarly writing, but it still can be a tricky aspect of writing to master. When writing on a topic, such as ministerial leadership, for example, it is advisable to consult sources written by experts on the topic. The difficulty is in using knowledge from experts without overshadowing what you want to say. It is tempting for some writers to get out of the way and let the experts make all the best points. After all, they are the experts, and if you properly cite everything, then there is no problem, right? Wrong! An expert on ministerial leadership will have great and insightful points on ministerial leadership, perhaps some that you never considered, but they have made their points already and published them. Many students think their writing needs to be as innovative and insightful as the experts they are reading, and when it isn't, they resort to overusing quotations and incessantly paraphrasing their sources. But these students are missing the point of most all academic writing assignments. The point is not to compare a student's ideas or insight with those of an expert; the point is to see the unique perspective that every writer brings to a topic interact with the ideas and insights of the experts. You may not know more than the expert, but your perspective is unique, and when you engage with the work of others in your writing, you are creating something new and fresh that could only happen because you chose to engage.

Dr. Trad Noguiera-Godsey
Writing Instructor



2021 SPRING GRADUATES— CONGRATULATIONS!



Top row: Bay Allen, Deb Cole, Alejandro Fernandez, Matt Kreh
Bottom row: Doug Pummell, Shirley Reed, Dick Smith

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Hess

COS 124: Transformative Leadership

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Hess received her M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. A Presbyterian minister, she is Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministries at United Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace
COS 223: Worship and Sacraments

Rev. 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 Emerita Professor of Worship and Music at MTSO.



Dr. Tejai Beulah

COS 322: Theological Heritage III: Medieval-Reformation

Dr. Tejai Beulah received her MTS from Methodist Theological School in Ohio and her Ph.D. from Drew University. She is Assistant Professor of History, Ethics, and Black Church and African Diaspora Studies at MTSO.

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

COS 421 Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, & Wisdom Lit

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 is Professor of Hebrew Bible at MTSO.



Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park

COS 523: Evangelism

Dr. Joon-Sik Park received his M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in Christian Ethics from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. A United Methodist elder, he is E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism at MTSO.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

THERE IS GOOD NEWS

If Jesus was both "in the flesh" and "of God," then by the grace of the Holy Spirit, God is in all creation, in each living thing. God is in each of us, just waiting for us to wake up and believe it. This is God's love poured out for us, God's grace fulfilled in our lives and embedded in our spiritual DNA. How we live into this reality is how we understand spirituality, and that will look different for each of us. As pastors we are part of one body, one church universal, and how we live the spiritual life is reflected in how we tell the "good news" of God's love and grace.

I am thinking about the spiritual life as we move into a new season and, hopefully, a post-pandemic season. But that is not all we face in our communities and our world. With mass shootings, wars, suicides, racial hatred, and numerous other violent actions, we are faced with unseen emotional struggles in our lives and our churches. Where, then, is the good news, and how do we share God's love?

I believe there is hope, in spite of these negative forces. God's love does not leave every time a violent action occurs or a hateful word is uttered. I have to believe this, if I believe in an incarnate God, made flesh and dwelling among us. God did not come to live among us and then disappear so we could tell a nice story twice a year, at Christmas and Easter. God is still with us, and we can see and feel God's love every day - in the beauty of sunsets and the joy of children. It may be a small spark, but God's love will never die. All the good we experience shows us the truth of the incarnate God, not distant and veiled, but up close and personal. We may have had to wear masks and stay socially distant from each other for almost two years, but God's love has always been there with us. We each have signs and experiences of this, of God's love pouring out in the worst of times. We just have to be still long enough to notice. God's love cannot be stopped, no amount of force will expel the hope that lives in each of us and the love that surrounds us.

So, no matter how you define your spiritual life, it is going to show up in how you live and in what you say about the good news of God's love. God is greater than we are, greater than the church, and greater than any political force. That is why, I believe we can never stop nurturing our spiritual lives - with scripture, prayer, communion, and sabbath rest. We need more of God's love each and every day, otherwise we will believe the good news is only about us and incarnation is something that happened once and is over.

What I am saying is, keep on doing ministry with all the love that is in you and that sustains you. Keep preaching and living the good news, don't just go through the motions. The world needs what you are doing. Feed your soul so you can feed others, and by the grace of God, we will keep hope alive, and that is Good News!



Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples
Spiritual Formation Director

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Students from 11 Annual Conferences are attending COSSO this term:



COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- 2021 Fall COS 422 and 524 are **full**. COS 422 is next offered in the 2022 Spring and Summer 2-Week terms, and 524, in 2022 Winter and Summer 2-Week.
- 2022 Winter COS 323: Congregational Care is **full**; COS 323 is next offered in the 2022 Summer 2-Week.
- You can find the course planning grid [here](#) to help you plan your classes.



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