

## Course of Study School of Ohio

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

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2021 Spring	Apr. 16-17 & May 14-15	2/15/2021	Meeting fully online
2021 Summer	Jun. 25-26 & Jul. 16-17	4/26/2021	
2021 Summer 2-week	Aug 2-6 and 9-12	6/3/2021	
2021 Fall	Sept 24-25 & Oct 22-23	7/26/2021	FULL-email Grace to join waitlist
2022	Registration is open on Populi	Dec 2021+	Available

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**G**race and peace to you in these uncertain and challenging times!

The author of Psalm 90 invites us to reflect on the meaning of our time in the light of its swiftness and brevity. It is noteworthy that the psalmist prays for the wisdom of heart that comes from considering the finitude of human time: “[**Lord,**] **teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**”

Those who learn how to number their days aright would accept their given time as a gift and seek to redeem it with gratitude and faithfulness. They would gain compassionate wisdom that reflects “a subtle, gradual shift in posture from trying to control life to receiving all of life as a gift to be embraced and lived” (Johnny Sears, “Receiving the Mantle: Mentoring and Spiritual Maturity,” *Weavings* 28/4 [2013]: 36). In this Covid-19 pandemic, we intensely and acutely learn that life is not something to be controlled but accepted as a gift with gratitude and faithfulness.

The United Methodist Church is now in a liminal space with an uncertain future. No matter the outcome of the upcoming General Conference, the shape of The United Methodist Church would change considerably. Yet “now” should not be a time of despair or inactivity but an opportunity to rethink of and rediscover the church’s true identity and purpose as God’s missionary community. Fully attentive to and utterly dependent on God, we are to seek our most truthful and creative responses to this time of inevitable change. We would need to continue to faithfully carry out our ministry, trusting in God’s sovereign faithfulness.

As you have been informed, our classes will be offered fully online at least through the Summer Two-Week Term this year due to the pandemic. We are anxious to return to in-person, on-campus learning as soon as public health considerations permit.

There is sad news to share. Pastor Bob James, a COS student, passed away unexpectedly on January 1 as the result of a heart attack. He was pastor at the New Haven United Methodist Church in the East Ohio Conference. His gentle presence will be greatly missed among us. Please keep his wife, Karen Sue, and his family in your prayers.

All of us on the Course of Study School of Ohio staff are delighted to welcome you all—including eleven new students and four graduating students—to the Winter Term. May God’s grace and continued guidance be with you through your COS journey in 2021!

Blessings,

*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

What do people mean when they say that a piece of writing “lacks structure?” Generally, in writing when we talk about structure, we are talking about the how the points in a piece of writing relate to each other. Good structure follows a progression of ideas that makes sense. For example, in biographical writing, structure tends to follow the flow of time. Things that happen earlier in one’s life may influence the choices a person makes later in life or may contribute to the characteristics of a person as they mature. If we disregard structure in such a piece of writing, things get confusing for a reader. A reader needs to know about a traumatic incident at the Zoo so that they can make sense a person’s fear of animals, for example. But, in academic writing we are often asked to write about ideas or problems that cannot be presented as a story with beginning, middle, and end. For example, if asked to write an essay on the advantages of serving in a small church, you may come up with several advantages off the top of your head. But if we sit down and just write what pops into our head, we will see that the writing suffers from a lack of structure. To fix this, use freewriting or brainstorming to identify the points you want to make, then consider the best way to talk about them. If two points are very similar, then consider grouping them together. Perhaps you see a smaller budget as an advantage, but to understand why you first need to explain the advantage of a more intimate setting to foster relationships. Spending some time to consider how to present your points will ensure your writing has structure and make your ideas more easily understood by the reader.

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



## 2020 FALL GRADUATES— CONGRATULATIONS!



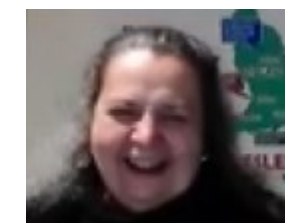
**Brad Bunn**



**Jeri Johnson**



**Cyndi Midlick**



**Penny Parkin**



**Bob Smith**



**Patty Wycuff**



# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



**Rev. Dr. Wray Bryant**  
COS 121: Bible I: Introduction  
Dr. E. Wray Bryant received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is Assistant Professor of Religion at Capital University

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Jaynes**  
COS 222 Theological Heritage II: Early Church  
Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes received an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. A Presbyterian elder, he currently teaches Church History at MTSO.



**Rev. Dr. Tom 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.

**Dr. David W. Scott**  
COS 423: Mission  
Dr. David W. Scott received his M.T.S. and Ph.D. from Boston University. He currently serves as a Mission Theology Consultant for the General Board of Global Ministries and a visiting researcher at the Boston University Center for Global Christianity & Mission.



**Rev. Dr. Don Dotterer**  
COS 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church  
Dr. Donald W. Dotterer received both his M.Div. and Ph.D. in Theology and Philosophy of Religion from Boston University. He is a retired elder of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## PEACE IS ALL THAT MATTERS

Peace is all that matters now  
broken lives need time to heal,  
wounded spirits cannot soar  
when life's torn curtain hangs there still.

Peace is all that matters  
in the silence of the heart,  
the one who formed you is with you still,  
let that love hold you now  
for hearts need time to heal,  
love has not gone  
let the one who called you here guide you still.

Love is here – see it there in the flame  
feel it holding you,  
flickering in the candle light  
casting shadows on the wall,  
see it shining through the window there  
painted with its sacred story,  
love is here – see it there in the water  
feel it blessing you.

Peace is all that matters now  
hold the silence in your heart,  
give the world its noise clamoring to be heard  
and let love hold you now,  
for broken lives need time to heal.  
© *Rebeka Maples*

As we move into a new year and another term of COS, it seems fitting that we should not skip over the fact that the past year was a tumultuous one. We carried stress on many levels and from many directions. It was different for each of us but each of us has tried to maintain some kind of normalcy in our homes, our churches, and our spiritual lives. With the election over and the vaccine coming, it seems as though we need to recognize that there is some healing that needs to be done and that, too, will be different for each of us. Only we can say where we are hurting or feel broken, but it will take all of us recognizing that we need to give each other time to heal, time to process all that we have been through. There are no instant solutions, no one spiritual practice that fits all, but there is one God who reaches out and heals all. I cannot say when or how that will happen for you, or for me, but I know that through prayer and doing God's work for a better world, we will bring God's love and hope back into our lives.

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



# FROM THE COORDINATOR

Here's a quick review of the past year:

**Students came from these Annual Conferences:** Alabama-West Florida, East Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Susquehanna, Upper New York, West Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin.

	2020
Students who took classes:	198
Classes completed:	431
New students:	43
Graduates:	21

## COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- **2021 Spring COS 221, 323, 424, and 521 are full**
- **2021 Fall COS 422 and 524 are full**
- **2022 course dates have been posted and registration is open!**

Students from 10 Annual Conferences are attending COSSO this term:



**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, MMEd**  
*Choir Director*

