

FROM THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE COORDINATOR



Let me welcome all of you, including eight new students and two graduating students, to the 2022 Spring Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

Our hearts have been heavy since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. We have been lifting up our prayers for the people of Ukraine. We have been praying that God will make this war cease and bring peace to the region.

Let me share an invitation to prayer for peace from Bishop Christian Alsted, United Methodist Bishop of the Nordic Baltic Area:

War and violence are evil and always entail considerable human costs. The Christian message points to the path of reconciliation and never to war and violence as a solution to conflicts.

In the face of this evil, we pray for a logic different from the one based on geopolitical competition. We pray for a change of hearts and minds of leaders; we pray for de-escalation and dialogue instead of violence and war. . . .

We stand with the United Methodists in Ukraine in prayer for protection, reconciliation, and peace. We pray for pastors, leaders, and congregations in The United Methodist Church in Ukraine; may God grant that their witness of reconciliation and peace will bring strength and hope to the Ukrainian people. . . .

I call on all our congregations to intercede for the people of Ukraine and for the leaders in the world who have the power to bring an end to war. I call on all our congregations to pray and fast for reconciliation and peace in the world. May God, in his grace, open our eyes to the things that make for peace, may he protect us all from the escalation and spreading of war, and may we follow him on his path of truth and peace.

As I stated in one of the previous newsletters, Paul stresses in 2 Corinthians that reconciliation is the defining act of God in Christ, yet God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. Our ministry of reconciliation and peacemaking, our witness to the Prince of Peace, is central to the gospel and integral to the mission of the church. And it is God who appeals through us even in our ministry of reconciliation. It is thus crucial for us, as an individual Christian and as the church, to continue to grapple with these questions concerning the gospel: "What should be the message of the gospel in this particular context and time? And how should the gospel be communicated?"

Our classes will continue to be offered fully online through the Summer Two-Week Term this year. We hope to return to in-person classes in a hybrid format starting with the Fall Term.

All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you this Spring term!

Grace and peace,
Joon-Sik Park

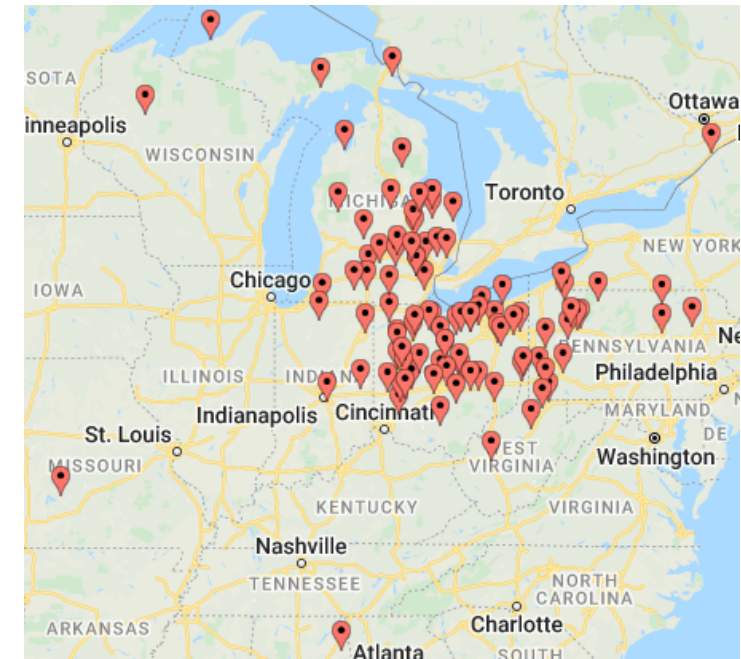
Dr. Joon-Sik Park
Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

- Registration is open for 2022 Summer-Fall and all 2023 classes now. You can find the course planning grid [here](#) to help you plan your classes.

Students from 11 Annual Conferences are attending COSSO this term:



Grace Wallace
Coordinator



Course of Study School of Ohio

www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2022 Summer (222 & 424 are FULL)	June 24-25 & July 15-16	4/25/2022	Meeting fully online
2022 Summer 2-Week (323 is FULL)	Aug 8-12 and 15-18	6/9/2022	
2022 Fall (124, 322 & 521 are FULL)	Sept 16-17 & Oct 14-15	7/18/22	Full
2023 Winter	Feb & Mar 17-18 (makeup dates 24-25)	12/16/22	Available
2023 Spring	April 14-15 & May 5-6	2/14/23	Available

2022 WINTER GRADUATES—CONGRATULATIONS!



Dan Barkholz,



Steven Graves,
and Trevor Rook (not pictured)



Tami Luckhardt,

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster

COS 122: Theological Heritage I: Introduction

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.

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.



Rev. Dr. Don Dotterer

COS 324: Preaching

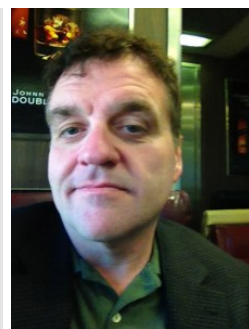
Dr. Donald W. Dotterer received both his M.Div. and Ph.D. in Theology and Philosophy of Religion from Boston University. He is a retired elder of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.



Dr. Glen Messer

COS 422: Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement

Dr. Glen Messer received his M.Div. and Th.D. from Boston University. From 2012-2016 he served as associate ecumenical staff officer for theology and dialogue with the UMC Council of Bishops Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.



Dr. Darrell Whiteman

COS 523: Evangelism

Dr. Darrell Whiteman received his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. He is in semi-retirement after teaching at Asbury Theological Seminary for 21 years and serving as Vice President at The Mission Society. At Asbury, he was Professor of Cultural Anthropology and later Dean.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

WHAT PRAYERS CAN WE PRAY?

What prayers can we pray? What words can we say, when one man's war devastates a whole country and terrorizes the world? The images stick in our heads and the cries reach deep in our souls. Feelings of helplessness bring tears to our eyes, when we see the children, the little boy crying, stumbling along by himself carrying his bag; young and old people, sick and wounded, the newborn babies and those yet to be born. What can we say? What can we do? We do what we have always done, and what people around the world are doing, we join our prayers with the people of Ukraine.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

We send our prayers to the defenders and the advocates, to those who care for the wounded, who sit with the lost and play with the children, who witness and report on the savagery and destruction, who weep with those who weep and bury the dead.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, their president and their leaders, that they may continue to have courage and continue to receive help from the rest of the world.

We pray for the people of Russia, that they might learn the truth, and have courage to speak that truth to power.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

We pray to God who hears our cries and knows our fears. Our hearts are heavy and our minds are troubled. How long will this go on? God's love is greater than we know, and God gives us the wisdom and courage to face our worst nightmares. We know peace will come but at what price? How many refugees? How many homeless? How many graves? We are the Body of Christ and we put our hope in God. We know that if one part suffers, we all suffer, and so we pray for healing and understanding. We pray for the world to help.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Hope crushed to the ground will rise again. And so, we pray to keep hope alive.

Amen and amen.

Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples
Spiritual Formation Director



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

PRAYERS RISE

Prayers rise in flames all over Ukraine
Burning through the night,

Mortar falling on broken bones and shattered lives
Walls standing in the smoke,
Children running in the streets
Women screaming from the shadows,
Bombs bursting in the air
Nowhere to hide from madmen with guns of fire,
But prayers rise everywhere.

Living in a world raging with war
burns all of us.
Bring hope back
don't let the embers die tonight.

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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

