



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

I am deeply convinced that the practice of biblical hospitality compellingly embodies the gospel. Verbal proclamation of the gospel is an essential dimension of Christian witness. Evangelism is, however, not solely verbal, as demonstrated in Jesus' incarnation, the paradigmatic event of evangelism. As D. T. Niles once said, "The Christian Gospel is the Word become flesh. This is more than and other than the Word become speech" (*They May Have Life*, 96).

When we practice hospitality, we intend to enter into fellowship with those whom we bear witness to. Evangelism practiced in the context of hospitality is thus not simply the sharing of our knowledge of the gospel, but of our lives redeemed, transformed, and sustained by the grace of God. When the Good News is shared, the lives of the witness and the one invited to Christian faith are also to be shared. In fact, the whole life of Jesus was that of hospitality, as Christine Pohl suggests: "Jesus gave his life so that persons could be welcomed into the Kingdom" (*Making Room*, 29).

The driving force for evangelism is felicitously described in 1 John 1:1-4, particularly in verse 3: "We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." Our motivation for evangelism is, first, based upon our own experience of God's welcoming of us in Christ to fellowship. Second, it is drawn from our desire to invite others into the same welcome of God and into the fellowship, which is not only with God but also with one another. Thus, the practice of evangelism in hospitality "both reflects and participates in God's invitation of welcome to all" (*Making Room*, 172).

I hope that your theological education at COSSO would help you become a person of hospitality who is willing to cross boundaries—whether racial, cultural, or economic—and to communicate God's redeeming love in Christ with genuine welcoming.

With great sadness I share the news that Pastor David E. Naus, a COSSO student, passed away on December 24, 2021. He was serving at Bayard UMC, East Rochester UMC, and Faith and Friendship Community Church in the East Ohio Conference. Please keep his wife, Dawn, and his family in your prayers.

Our classes will be offered fully online at least through the Summer Term this year due to the pandemic. All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you this Winter term!

Grace and peace,

Dr. Joon-Sik Park

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



2021 FALL GRADUATES— CONGRATULATIONS!



Top row: Brad Bloomster, Terry Burkhardt, and Bob Carson Jr,
2nd row: Daniel Colthorp, Will Council, and Bill Eckert,
3rd row: Dawn Hargraves, Ken Hundley, and Beverly Hurlburt,
4th row: Bruce Keen, Laurie Koivula, and Kathy Mihoerck,
5th row: Penny Nunn, Linda Ward, and Jim Westermann Jr.

Course of Study School of Ohio

www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2022 Summer (222 & 424 are almost full)	June 24-25 & July 15-16	4/25/2022	Meeting fully online
2022 Summer 2-Week (323 is almost full)	Aug 8-12 and 15-18	6/9/2022	Full
2022 Fall (124 & 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

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Rev. Dr. Wray Bryant
COS 121: Bible I: Introduction

Dr. 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. Cara Stultz-Costello
COS 224: Administration and Polity

Rev. Cara Stultz-Costello received her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary. She serves as District Superintendent of the Tuscarawas district of the East Ohio conference.



Rev. Dr. Fulgence Nyengele
COS 323: Congregational Care

Dr. Fulgence Nyengele received his M.Div. and Ph.D. from the Claremont School of Theology. An elder in the North Katanga Annual Conference of the TUMC, he is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling and Director of the MACM and DMin programs at MTSO.

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

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

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. Jason Vickers

COS 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

Dr. Jason Vickers received his M.Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University. He is Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

JUST ANOTHER REMINDER: PRAY ALWAYS

And just like that, we are in another year, another COS term, another season... It is an amazing time in our world with everything turned upside down and inside out because of the pandemic, violence, and other divisions that drive us further and further apart. Yet, here we are looking for ways to stay connected, to restore hope in our lives and in our churches, and to continue to believe in God's beloved community.

Now that Christmas is behind us, how do we look forward to another season? How do we prepare ourselves and our churches for the Lenten journey with so much going on around us? Since the first Easter resurrection, Christians have prepared for Lent in many different ways, praying and fasting, worshiping and serving. Of all these traditions, prayer seems to be one thing that guides us and unites us in all our efforts to maintain hope and community, building God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Prayer is our lifeline to God and to each other, but we need reminders. It is probably no surprise that clergy are among some of the most negligent pray-ers, as well as the most persistent seek-ers of prayer, always searching for extra time to pray. The good news is prayer does not require "extra" time. It is part of our ministry, our job description. The bad news is, it is up to us to include it in our daily routine.

Many of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, described prayer as bringing our thinking down into our heart, just repeating one short phrase or verse is enough to write it on the heart. It is not the words themselves as much as the repetition that imprints them on the mind and in the heart. Saying the Lord's Prayer over and over makes the words part of you, so that you don't have to "think" you just say them. They are written on your heart. The Jesus Prayer, which is the simple repetition of the phrase: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me," may seem empty or boring at first, but with time it descends into the heart and becomes a part of who you are and how you think.

God is with us all the time. God doesn't need to be reminded of this but we do, and prayer reminds us of this. So, as you begin to prepare for the Lenten season, let prayer be your guide. We need these reminders because we are busy and we forget to stop, to remember that God is with us and has been there, praying and waiting for us all along.

The practice of prayer is part of ministry and of who we are in the beloved community. Stop and let it become a part of you until the sweet, sweet song of Jesus just sings on its own and overflows within you.

Some sources for Desert Prayer: Richard Rohr, "Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate: Seeing God in All Things," Daily Meditation (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2010); Frederica Mathewes-Green, The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient Desert Prayer That Tunes the Heart to God (Paraclete Press: 2009).

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, Great Plains, Illinois Great Rivers, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Susquehanna, Tennessee, Texas, Upper New York, West Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin.

	2021
Students who took classes	209
Classes completed	405
New students	42
Graduates	33

COURSE PLANNING NOTES:

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

Students from 15 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, MEd
Choir Director

