

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**FROM THE DIRECTOR, cont.**



**Course of Study School  
of Ohio**

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

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Availability
2023 Summer 2-Week	July 31-August 11	Extended to 6/15	Online term
2023 Fall	Sept. 15-16 & Oct. 13-14	7/18/23	Hybrid: <u>Available each wkend</u>
2024 Winter	Feb. 16-17 & Mar. 17-18	12/18/23	Online term
2024 Spring	Apr. 12-13 & May 3-4	2/12/24	Online term

**L**et me welcome all of you, including eleven new students and one graduate, to the 2023 Summer Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

There is an inseparable link between the presence and work of the Holy Spirit and the mission of the church. In the book of Acts, it is the Holy Spirit who keeps urging the church to move beyond its boundaries in its missional and evangelistic endeavor. One of the most significant events in Acts was the conversion of Cornelius—the first full-blown encounter between a Christian Jew and a Gentile, with significant implications for the future mission and evangelism of the early church. Here the issue was not the legitimacy of a Gentile mission, but the inclusion of Gentiles at the table-fellowship.

Throughout the whole incident, hospitality becomes and remains a pervasive and thorny issue. Clearly, the Cornelius story was about the social barrier to the Gentile mission. For the Jerusalem church to overcome such a barrier, Peter first had to experience a conversion, learning firsthand that “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34). Peter’s conversion then led to the conversion of the church from ethnocentrism to multiculturalism. According to Beverly Gaventa, “Indeed, in Luke’s account, Peter and company undergo a change that is more wrenching by far than the change experienced by Cornelius.”

Unfortunately, the church today is still faced with the same kind of challenge—to overcome its ethnocentrism and homogeneity and to reach people of different races, cultures, and economic classes. As Darrell Guder said, there is always a danger for the church to pursue “culturally exclusive forms of Christian witness and church formation.” However, authentic mission and evangelism invites believers to go beyond their comfort zone to meet and form a community with people who are different from them, confronting the prevailing homogeneous patterns of human relationships in society.

I hope that the courses we offer at COSSO would help you envision and pursue a community of faith that intentionally crosses boundaries—whether racial, cultural, or economic—established by society and communicates God’s redeeming love in Christ with genuine welcoming.

All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you this term, and pray for God’s continued guidance and blessings on your studies and ministry.

Peace,

*Joon-Sik Park*

**Dr. Joon-Sik Park**

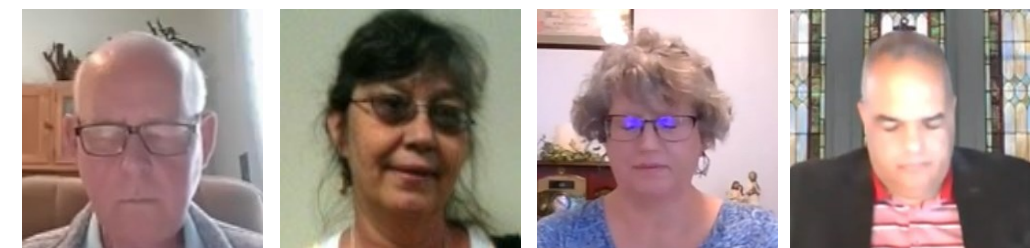
*Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio  
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism  
at MTSO*



**2023 SPRING GRADUATES—  
CONGRATULATIONS!**



Ed Armantrout Indiana    Arianna Eberle North Georgia    Debbie Gheen East Ohio    Tim Glidden Indiana



Harold Jones Indiana    Melissa Kraus Western PA    Lori McIntosh Indiana    Reginald Oxendine North Carolina

## MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS

### Dr. Miranda Zapor Cruz

COS 122: Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Dr. Miranda Zapor Cruz received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. from Baylor University. She is Associate Professor of Theology at Indiana Wesleyan University and Director of the Sacred Alliance Center at Wesley Seminary in Indiana.



### Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

COS 221: Bible II: Torah & Israel's History

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. Robin Knowles Wallace

COS 324: Preaching

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. An ordained UCC minister, she is Emerita Professor of Worship and Music at MTSO.



### Rev. Glenn Rowley

COS 423: Mission

Rev. Glenn Rowley, a retired UM elder, received his M.Div. from Iliff School of Theology. Previously, he served as the Director of the Mission and Global Justice office of the VA Conference, and as a missionary with GBGM over 24 years serving as the Director of Mission Personnel Training and working in diverse mission settings in Mozambique, Senegal, and Mexico.



### Rev. Dr. Mark Powell

COS 521: Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation

Dr. Mark Allan Powell received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and his Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He is retired Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

"There is a time to die..." When someone dies life goes on, differently, but it goes on. Whether the person was a close loved one or a distant friend, everything stops, at least temporarily, and we grieve the loss. These are times that crush the spirit and stretch our faith. There is an emptiness that nothing can fill and so we look for something to fill the void. Depression may set in and push us to the breaking point. We try to pick up the pieces and they scatter in front of us, testing our faith. It happens to all of us at some point, but for pastors it is often devastating because it seems we have nowhere to turn, no confidant, no soul friend or confessor, just us moving into the next meeting or project on the calendar. There's no time to stop and put the pieces back together, no time to grieve when there's so much to do.

Yes, life goes on, faith and hope tell us this, and we will pick up the pieces, in time. But for now, in the time of grief, "there is a time to mourn."

I was thinking about this last week when I received word that a dear friend in England died. It took me by surprise because, well, I guess I didn't expect it. He was healthy and always so eager to stay in touch and help others. He was not only my friend but my mentor when I lived in England. We were pastors in the same Methodist circuit so we met regularly, but more than that he was my mentor. I was just out of seminary and he walked me through each new service that I had, funerals, baptisms, weddings, and it was truly a blessing. He said he did it because someone did it for him. I especially remember the time he came over for Annual Conference and was one of the sponsors at my ordination. Wouldn't it be nice if we all would pass on kindness to those who follow us, like Rev. Keith Jump did for me, and help others respond to God's call in their lives.

When Jesus dies on the cross, there is grief and there is hope as something new rises. And that is the call to us, to take the time to mourn and then live again.

### When the light goes out

When friends leave  
and the light goes out  
the memory place cries with an aching emptiness  
trying to renew what cannot be renewed.

When friends leave  
the grief and tears  
speak to the mourning place  
light once seen slowly disappears  
but the memories linger.

When friends leave  
shock waves are felt deep in the spirit place  
and the soul wanders halls of the past  
looking for light to open a door.

When friends leave  
be in the silent place  
be alone with the sadness  
and bow to the sharing place  
until light renews  
the empty place.

Rebeka Maples, "When the light goes out" in *Praying with Light: In Candlemas and starless nights*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2017.

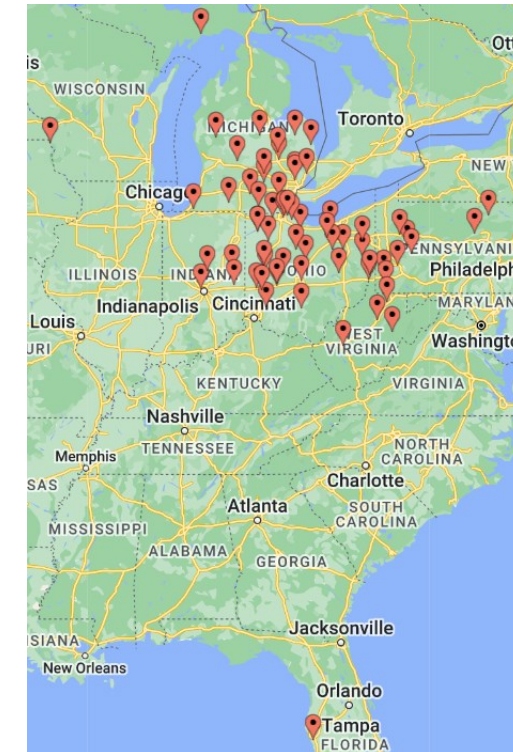
**Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples**  
Spiritual Formation Director



## FROM THE COORDINATOR

Registration notes:

- The 2023 Summer 2-Week term will meet fully online. 2023 Fall is meeting in a hybrid format. COS 121, 222, and 323 will meet in-person weekend 1. COS 424 and 522 will meet in-person weekend 2. Each class will meet on Zoom the weekend not in person.
- We are planning to meet in the same format in 2024, with the Winter, Spring, and Summer terms fully online and the Fall term hybrid



← Students from 9 Annual Conferences are taking classes in 2023 Summer



**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 do so in person.



**Lori Douglas Weaver, MEd**  
Choir Director