

## Course of Study School of Ohio

<https://cosohio.org/> and <https://cosohio.populiweb.com/>

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**M**ay the joy and fresh wind of Pentecost continue to fill your hearts and your ministries! Let me welcome all of you, including thirteen new students and two graduates, to the 2026 Spring Term.

For three decades, the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO) has been committed to serving licensed local pastors of The United Methodist Church by providing transformative ministerial education. With God's grace, this vital program has flourished through the excellence of its faculty, the dedication of its staff, and the rich academic resources of Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO).

Beginning with the fall term this year, COSSO will transition from its current form into a new collaborative partnership between MTSO and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. This partnership will allow us to combine the strengths and resources of both institutions to better serve our students. While the logistical details of the new program are still emerging, we hope that there will be a seamless transition.

In "True and Perfect Joy" (Weavings 27/4 [2012]), David Rensberger reflects on St. Francis's understanding of joy, which originates from acknowledging the presence of God in all reality and is based on a profound trust in God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, whose goodness and faithful care endures and never fails. We do not lose heart as we anticipate, perceive, and remain attentive to the presence of God in all circumstances.

How, then, can we prepare ourselves for such a joy? Rensberger suggests the spiritual practice of gazing on Christ, that is, "habitual inward attentiveness toward Christ, reflecting on his life and death, holding him before our awareness." It is to "run with perseverance the race that is set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1b-2a). When we are formed in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our joy gets rooted in love, looking beyond ourselves to God and to our neighbors.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR, cont.

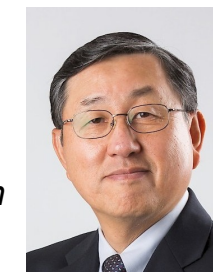
I hope that your educational experiences at COSSO would help you be shaped in the pattern of Jesus' love and become joyful participants in the reign of God, faithfully sharing the gospel and actively working for peace and justice.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication to your studies and your faithful service to the church. All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you this term and pray for God's continued guidance and blessings upon your studies and ministries.

Peace,

**Dr. Joon-Sik Park**

*Director of the Course of Study School of Ohio  
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism  
Methodist Theological School in Ohio*



## 2026 SPRING GRADUATES— CONGRATULATIONS!



(L-R): Bill Lawler, Western Pennsylvania Conference and Ben Webster, West Ohio Conference

