

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park

Welcome to the 2016 Fall Session of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

The United States is rapidly becoming multicultural and it is hard to ignore changing demographics in our communities. Still, however, the majority of churches in the U.S. are stuck in a monocultural mode. They have neither desire nor intention to cross boundaries established by society and to create relationships with those who are different from them ethnically and culturally.

Thankfully, however, there are some churches that are willing to build relationships across racial, cultural, and socioeconomic differences. In *We Are the Church Together*, Charles Foster and Theodore Brelsford carefully examine the life and ministry of three multicultural congregations in the Atlanta area. Among the distinctive characteristics of these multicultural congregations, two are particularly important. First, there is an emerging ecclesiology different from the one prevailing among homogeneous congregations. These three congregations embrace racial and cultural diversity as integral to their identity as a community of faith, and draw upon it as a resource for their life and mission, "as gifts to be accepted, explored, and affirmed" (109). Second, they bear a sign of the cross. In living against the persistent and dominant practice of cultural and racial homogeneity, they cannot avoid facing challenges. They constantly live in ambiguity and uncertainty. Yet, at the same time, they demonstrate a life of vibrancy in the midst of fragility.

What keeps them steadfast and faithful to their vision of the church is an eschatological vision from Revelation 7:9-10: "There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

I hope that your theological learning at COSSO would be instrumental in helping you attain an understanding and vision of the church that is multicultural and inclusive.

All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to welcoming you to this Fall Session.

Grace and peace,
Joon-Sik Park
E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COSSO NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Kim Trimboli



A common grammatical mistake I see is the misuse of the semicolon; sometimes it is used where a colon is needed, while other times it is used where a comma would be the best choice. The first correct use of a semicolon is to link two independent clauses that are closely related. For instance: "Some people use suspenders to hold up their pants; others choose to use a belt." Both of these independent clauses could stand alone as a sentence, but the semicolon ties them together instead of a coordinating conjunction (such as *and*, *but*, *yet*, *or*, *nor*, or *because*). A conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase can aid in the transition and connection after a semicolon as well. A semicolon can also be used to separate list items that have sub-sets which are separated by commas. If the semicolon gives you trouble, read more online at the *Purdue O.W.L.* or *The Guide to Grammar and Writing* websites.

VIEW FROM THE COORDINATOR

Terri Litchfield



Coming soon ... the COSSO 2018 schedule!

I will send out an email announcement to all students when it has been posted and you may begin registering for those classes. Yes, 2018!!

2016 SUMMER WEEKEND & 2-WEEK GRADUATES

Mary Balson
Rochelle Hunter
Mona Dye

Terri Cummins
Janet Kelley



Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2017 Winter	2/3-4 & 3/3-4 (Makeup: 2/10-11 & 3/10-11)	12/5/2016	3 rms
2017 Spring	3/31-4/1 & 5/5-6	1/30/2017	3 rms
2017 Summer	6/23-24 & 7/21-22	4/24/2017	YES
2017 Summer 2-Week	8/ 7-11 & 8/14-17	6/8/2017	YES
2017 Fall	9/22-23 & 10/27-28	7/24/2017	YES

2016 Fall COS Faculty

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Rev. Rebeka Maples, Ph.D.
Director of Spiritual Formation



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Lori Douglas Weaver
Music Director



Sarah Lancaster
COS 122

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.

Rachel Magdalene
COS 221

Dr. F. Rachel Magdalene received an M.Div. from Iliff School of Theology and a Ph.D. from University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology. She is currently Fully Affiliated Faculty at United Theological Seminary.



Fulgence Nyengele
COS 323

Rev. 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 at MTSO. and Counseling at MTSO.

Ervin Smith
COS 424

Rev. Dr. Ervin Smith received an M.Div. from Drew Theological School and a Ph.D. from Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary/ Northwestern University. He is Emeritus Professor of Christian Ethics at MTSO.



Mark Powell
COS 521

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

CHASING AFTER HOLINESS

Suddenly it is September, and I am not sure where summer went. The leaves are beginning to fall, and I'm still watering summer flowers. Where has the time gone? Seasons come and seasons go, but sometimes we just miss them.

It is amazing what I miss when I am busy doing other things – like the rainbow that is now fading in the sky, or the sunset that must have been brilliant but I arrived too late, or the phone call I missed from an old friend, can't remember why I missed it but I must have been working on something important. So many excuses can fill our lives that I wonder how we ever manage to find time for God.

The good thing is, God finds us! When we least expect it, God breaks through. A few weeks ago I went on a long overdue retreat, to catch-up with my spiritual director and give my soul time to catch-up with the rest of me. It usually takes awhile to settle-in when I go on a week's retreat, to listen and to be with God. And sometimes in this struggle to "not do," I find myself working at trying "to be." I am sure God must laugh at the ways we dance around what we know will feed our souls!

So, there I was one evening determined to watch the sunset. However, before I knew it, I was caught up in looking for the best view. I went up to the fifth floor lounge, out on the hill overlooking the river, over to the outside patio, and finally ended up where I had started and almost missed it altogether. Well, it wasn't a spectacular display of color that night, but it was beautiful. What I enjoyed most, though, was laughing at the way I danced from one spot to another searching for the best place to be closer to God. Afterwards, I wrote these words about chasing after holiness:

*Chasing after holiness
Longing for the light
Sun sending flares of color through the evening sky
Red wall of light falling behind the trees
Orange ball of brightness sitting on the edge
Chasing after holiness
Yearning for the light
Hoping for a glimpse, to fill the emptiness
Seeking higher ground, to get a better view
Chasing after holiness
Is futile in the end
For holiness will find you
And meet you where you are.*

When you get a chance, schedule a time to watch the sunset. Sit with no agenda and receive whatever comes to you. Ponder the beauty and the gift of this daily event, but don't spend too much time planning it or you might miss it. But if you do, thanks be to God, there is another sunset scheduled for tomorrow!

COSSO CHOIR

"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2

Participation in choir is a great way to make a joyful noise to God. God delights in joyful noise. Whether it is pleasing to our ears or not, God recognizes our efforts to sing praises. Henry Van Dyke said, "Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

The COSSO choir is an opportunity for students to participate in worship in a more meaningful way. Recognizing that our students come from a wide variety of musical experiences - some who can read music and some who cannot, some who can sing harmony parts and some who cannot - the choir music is selected from *The Faith We Sing* song books in order to include all skill levels so that all may feel free to participate. In addition to singing, this year we have had handbells, a guitar and a dulcimer accompany our choir as well as a liturgical dancer. However one wishes to express praise to God, we are open to try it.

Students who participate in the choir are placed on my email list. An email is sent out before class that includes which song the choir will be singing for that weekend. This gives students a chance to look over the music and decide whether or not they can play a musical instrument or add another enhancement to the performance of the music in order to make it more meaningful.

There is one 20-30 minute rehearsal each weekend. We run through the song and then practice any parts as needed. After going through the song a few more times, we are ready to perform. For the graduation service, we have begun a new tradition of singing #2153 in *The Faith We Sing*, "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me".

John Wesley preached to do good works so that others may see God's love through us. Join the choir and share God's love as we make a joyful noise of praise to our Almighty Creator!

COSSO FAQ: How do I get my COS transcript?

Email transcript requests to Pamela Frost, cosregistrar@gbhem.org.

Include the following so she knows she has the right student:

- 1) PID# 2) full name 3) conference 4) date of birth

She will email your transcript as a pdf file.