

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park

Welcome to the 2017 Summer Two-Week Term of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

You are likely to have heard about or even read a document called "Wonder, Love and Praise." It is a statement on ecclesiology produced by the Committee on Faith and Order and designed to engage United Methodists in inquiring into the nature and purpose of the church. "Wonder, Love and Praise" is to be welcomed with appreciation, since a critical reflection on the church is crucial to aligning our life and witness as a community of faith with God's purpose for the world.

An integral United Methodist ecclesiology should, first, reflect distinctive Wesleyan convictions, for it to be a gift to the Church Universal. Yet, at the same time, it is to be imbued with ecumenical humility—being aware of the partial character of its understanding and expression of the church, and open to reciprocal correction through ecumenical dialogue. Second, the essentially missionary nature of the church is to be acknowledged and become a central concern. The church's identity and calling needs to be rooted in the conception of the church as a "sent" community, whose calling is to participate in the missionary action of the Triune God.

Third, the eschatological nature of the church is to be fully appreciated. Only when the tension between the present reality and the expected future of God's kingdom is recognized, the church's missionary responsibility between the times can be faithfully carried out, and the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of the church now can be paid sufficient heed. I hope that, through your theological learning at COSSO, you would seriously grapple with the question of what it means to be an authentic church in your own ministry contexts.

Some sad news to share. Pastors Michael Bloomfield and Lysa Gibbs, both COSSO students, have recently passed away. Please keep their families and congregations in your prayers.

All of us on the COSSO staff are excited to welcome all of you, including nine new students, and pray for God's continued guidance and blessings on your COS journeys.

Grace and peace,

Joon-Sik Park

E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism



COSSO NEWSLETTER
 Volume 21
 Summer 2-Week

Announcing...

2019 COS Classes

Winter **Reg Deadline: 12/10/2018**

Feb 8-9 (15-16 makeup) & Mar 8-9 (15-16 makeup)

- 124: Transformative Leadership
- 223: Worship & Sacraments
- 321: Bible III: Gospels
- 422: Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
- 523: Evangelism

Spring **Reg Deadline: 2/4/2019**

April 5-6 & May 3-4

- 123: Formation & Discipleship
- 224: Administration & Polity
- 322: Theological Heritage III: Medieval-Reformation
- 421: Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms & Wisdom Lit
- 524: Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

Summer **Reg Deadline: 4/22/2019**

June 21-22 & July 12-13

- 122: Theological Heritage I: Introduction
- 221: Bible II: Torah & Israel's History
- 324: Preaching
- 423: Mission
- 521: Bible V: Acts, Epistles & Revelation

Summer 2-Week **Reg Deadline: 6/6/2019**

August 5-9 and 12-15

- 121: Bible I: Introduction
- 222: Theological Heritage II: Early Church
- 321: Bible III: Gospels
- 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church
- 124: Transformative Leadership
- 223: Worship & Sacraments
- 422: Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
- 523: Evangelism

Fall **Reg Deadline: 7/29/2019**

Sept. 27-28 & Oct. 25-26

- 121: Bible I: Introduction
- 222: Theological Heritage II: Early Church
- 323: Congregational Care
- 424: Ethics
- 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church

CHOIR NEWS

Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director



Music is one of the seven modes of learning. It is capable of impacting the limbic system of the brain like nothing else. To quote Augustine, "He who sings prays twice."

Be part of the COS Choir and experience Spiritual Formation in a new dimension. Whether you sing or play a musical instrument, I guarantee that participation in the choir will enrich your COS journey while you form special bonds of friendship with others who also enjoy music.

We'll see you in the choir room for rehearsal Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 3:30-4:00. Don't know where to find us? Go to the Centrum and follow the joyful noise! Please send me an email for more information or for an advance copy of the music.



Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2018 Winter	February 9-10 & March 9-10	12/11/2017	YES
2018 Spring	April 13-14 & May 11-12	2/12/2018	YES
2018 Summer	June 22-23 & July 13-14	4/23/2018	YES
2018 Summer 2-week	August 6-10 & 13-16	6/7/2018	YES

2017 SUMMER 2-WEEK SCHEDULE


Date	Time	Event	Location
WEEK 1			
Sun, 8/6	4:00-5:00pm	Registration	Coffee Shop
	5:00pm	Pizza Party	Coffee Shop
	6:00pm	Opening Gathering / Orientation	Centrum
Mon, 8/7	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Centrum
Tue, 8/8	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:30pm	Enrichment – Rev. Philip Brooks, “Practical Tips for Effective Ministry (from the Perspective of Fifty Years)”	Centrum
	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
Wed, 8/9	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Centrum
	5:30pm	Cookout with COS Alums	Pavillion
	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
Thu, 8/10	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:30pm	Enrichment – Gaston and Jeanne Ntambo, GBGM missionaries from the Democratic Republic of Congo, “Wings of the Morning”	Centrum
	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
Fri, 8/11	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	WEEK 2		
Mon, 8/14	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Centrum
Tue, 8/15	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	6:30pm	Ice Cream Social	TBD
Wed, 8/16	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Spiritual Formation	Centrum
	3:30-4:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Centrum
Thu, 8/17	8:00-8:20am	Morning Prayers	Centrum
	11:00-11:45am	Eucharist / Graduation	Centrum

WIND OF THE SPIRIT

I love stories of the wind. The story in Acts 2 about the wind on Pentecost triggers excitement in me for the Spirit blowing through the church. My summer reading has led me to The Outrun by Amy Liptrot, a memoir about living in the extremes, extreme windy climate on the Orkney Islands off the northern most tip of Scotland and extreme lifestyle in London with alcoholism and dysfunctional relationships. As I read Liptrot’s story, I am reminded of my own life and how extreme environments with violence and other abuse in childhood can affect or, perhaps, shape our behavior as adults. I am also reminded of how the weather can trigger memories, perhaps awakening dormant thoughts and experiences. We are told that the body holds memory, maybe that’s why I love stories about the wind. They remind me of places where the wind seems to surround me and the Spirit of God seems to protect me. One of those places is Pendle

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Rev. Rebeka Maples, Ph.D.



Hill on the moors of northern England. There is a mystery that surrounds Pendle, perhaps because of the wind that blows in all directions in all seasons, or perhaps because of the 17th century stories of the witch trials of women who lived near there. Whatever the reason, the wind over Pendle stays with me when I leave that place. Here are some words that may trigger your memory of the Spirit blowing through your life:

WIND OVER PENDLE

Wind over Pendle,
blowing from the sea
rolling over hill
and falling into dale.

Wind over Pendle,
surround me with your spirit
hold me where I stand
in space within the mist.

Wind over Pendle,
enfold me in your mystery
lift me into ecstasy
move on through time
blowing endlessly.

Wind over Pendle,
listen to the voices
whispering across
where trees once stood
in space between time.

Wind over Pendle,
cut through the veil
hold the heavens open
and kiss the ground below.

Wind over Pendle,
carry me along
in spring winds and warmer days
where heather meets the bog
and spirit soars in clouds above.

-Rebeka Maples


ON WRITING

“Readers are dumb,” I remember a composition instructor telling me in college. At the time I thought it was the most ridiculous assertion I had heard. We are all readers, but we can’t all be dumb, can we? In a sense, we are dumb when we read words written by another person. A writer has ideas and convincing arguments in their heads, and we are “dumb” to exactly what they are thinking, save what is written on the page. The jump from mind to paper is actually a pretty long leap for most ideas. Even the simplest ideas can take volumes to explain.

My composition teacher wasn’t trying to instill a sense of superiority or condescending language in her students, she was trying to make us understand that nothing is as clear on paper as it is in our own heads. Many of us believed this meant we had to ‘over-explain’

FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey



ourselves in our writing, to which she replied with a Mark Twain quote: “...Anybody can have ideas—the difficulty is to express them without squandering a quire of paper on an idea that ought to be reduced to one glittering paragraph.”

Writing, whether academic, prose or social, is an the artistic enterprise of distilling ideas into words. The Mark Twain quote above refers to conciseness in writing. The goal of concise writing is to use the most effective words. Concise writing does not always have the fewest words, but it always uses the strongest ones. Successful writing straddles the line between over-explaining and failing to explain, making use of the most direct and poignant words in the process. When editing your own work, always ask yourself: “Does this word serve a purpose?” If not, you can usually leave it out.

2017 SUMMER COS GRADUATES

