

2015 Summer COS Faculty



Brooks Heck
Teaching 121:
Bible I: Introduction

Rev. Dr. Brooks Heck received his D.Min. from United Theological Seminary. He is a retired Elder in the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Brooks Heck



Robin Dillon
COS 223:
Worship & Sacraments

Rev. Robin Dillon received her M.Div. from MTSO and is currently pastor at Oak Chapel UMC in Wooster, Ohio. Ordained in the East Ohio Conference, she has served on her conference's licensing school faculty for the last four years. Some of her works have been published by Abingdon and Pilgrim Press.

Robin Dillon



David Eastman
Teaching 321:
Bible III: Gospels

Dr. David Eastman received his M.A. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Yale University. He is Assistant Professor of Religion at Ohio Wesleyan University.

David Eastman



Diane Lobody
Teaching 422:
Theological Heritage IV:
Wesleyan Movement

Dr. Diane Lobody received a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Drew University. She is Professor of Church History at MTSO.

Diane Lobody



Randall Haase
Teaching 523:
Evangelism

Rev. Randall Haase received his M.Div. from MTSO. He is a mentor in the United Methodist Candidacy process and currently serves as a full-time Elder in the South Carolina Conference at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sumter South Carolina.

Randall Haase

2015 Terms	Registration deadline	On-campus housing available as of today
2015 Summer 2-Week	June 3, 2015	No
2015 Fall	July 25, 2015	No

COSSO Newsletter
Course of Study School of Ohio

2015
Summer/
Summer 2-Week



From the Director's Desk
Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park

Welcome to the 2015 Summer and Summer Two-Week Sessions of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)!

In "True and Perfect Joy" (Weavings 27/4 [2012]) David Rensberger reflects on St. Francis's understanding of joy. For Francis true joy does not stem from happiness, achievement, and success. It rather originates from anticipating and acknowledging the presence of God in all reality, even in "the reality of painful experiences in life." Perfect joy is based on a profound trust in God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, whose goodness and faithful care endures and never fails.

Then, how 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 and shaped in the life and teaching and death of Jesus, our joy gets rooted in love, looking beyond ourselves to God and to our neighbors.

It is easy for us ministers to lose joy in ministry and even lose heart, not being able to find the presence of God in all reality. Yet, looking to Jesus with faithful attentiveness and commitment would enable us to see everything in life and ministry in its proper perspective, recover our focus, and be restored to joy. I hope that your educational and communal 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.

Starting this Summer Two-Week Session, Rev. Kim Trimboli will serve as the writing instructor for COSSO. Rev. Trimboli is a Presbyterian minister and graduated from MTSO in 2012. Unlike in the past, her service will be limited to the students enrolled in a 100-level course each session. She will be embedded in a course and work with each student on at least one writing assignment. She will seek to help you improve writing skills and gain self-sufficiency in effective writing. I am delighted to have her as a part of the COSSO staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Sister Margaret Van Sickle for her wonderful service as writing coach. She will continue to serve as the COSSO musician. All of us on the COSSO staff look forward to journeying with you during the Summer and Summer Two-Week Sessions.

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

If you are planning to graduate from the program in 2015, please let us know!

Summer 2-Week 2015	Instructor	Crs#
August 8-11 Reg. Deadline: 6/9/15	B. Binau	123
	J. Jaynes	222
	D. Lewis	324
	R. Knowles Wallace	421
	D. Eastman	522

Spiritual Formation

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



In Ordinary Time...

I like Ordinary Time. I like it because there are no elaborate services to plan. I like this season because it gives me a chance to catch my breath and sink deeper into the lectionary readings. Mark is taking us through some of the miracle stories right now and I find that strangely refreshing, because I'm not one to focus much on miracles. I tend to rationalize them and seek logical explanations, but with a little more time to "chew on" these passages, I find myself realizing these are experiences of the living God, and I know something about that! Don't you?

In his remarks on the passage from Mark (4:35-41) David Close (textthisweek.com) quotes from Leif Enger's book, *Peace Like a River*, "People fear miracles because they fear being changed." He is referring to the kind of fear that stands somewhere between awe and terror: the fear of being changed. In the miracle stories Jesus is asking his listeners to change. He is calling them from the familiar to what is strange and foreign. He is asking them to change careers. The change they are facing is miraculous, when they realize this is the voice of the living God, and that the change will turn their lives upside down.

What kind of change have you experienced? I'm not talking about the changes we anticipate and plan. I mean the kind of change that happens when we encounter the living God, and realize that life will never be the same again. Perhaps, it wasn't a dramatic experience for you, but for a lot of us a call to ministry was a life-changing moment. We found ourselves doing strange things, like seeking an appointment as a pastor of a church and enrolling in Course of Study. Something prompted you to realize that you just couldn't keep doing things the same way. When you realize that it is God who is calling you, things don't necessarily get better, things just change. It is the kind of feeling that falls somewhere between being awestruck and frightened.

I know I was frightened when I realized that God was calling me to ministry, and I was awestruck when I was ordained an elder. Since I already had a PhD in political science, none of it made any sense. But it makes sense now, because the experience has been life changing. Oh, it didn't mean that things got better or that I was recognized for the gifts I brought to ministry. I still faced having my academic background trivialized because of my gender, and I now face having it ignored because of my age, but that's not the point. The point is, an experience with the living God is transformative and that is miraculous in so many ways. It empowers us to speak God's Word every Sunday. It strengthens us at committee meetings and at bedsides. It gives us the courage to do things we could never have envisioned ourselves doing before the "miracle," but afterwards we know this is where we are meant to be.

And so, what I am saying is, during this Ordinary Time, spend a little time with these miracle stories and remember... remember the one who called you to this awesome and frightening task of listening and following the voice of the One who makes miracles out of us.

Rev Dr Rebeka Maples

Views from the Coordinator

By Terri Litchfield



WESLEY IN ENGLAND CLASSES March 29 – April 9, 2016

COS 122 – Theological Heritage I

COS 422 – Theological Heritage IV

See link at www.cosohio.org for more information.

A link to Kathy Dickson's 2015 Spring COS Enrichment presentation, "**Ministry with Persons with Disabilities and Their Families**," has been posted at www.cosohio.org.

Administrative Withdrawal

Students withdrawing from COS classes after attending part of a session receive a grade of "AW." Registration, housing and tuition payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. Since conference scholarships are only paid after the student successfully completes a class, the student will be billed for any portion of the \$270 tuition fee which was not received. (This applies only to students from conferences which provide a conference scholarship to COSSO. Some conferences reimburse students directly after courses are completed.) GBHEM records both "WD" and "AW" grades and these are now included on COS transcripts.

2015 Spring COSSO Graduate: C. Russell Abbott, Stephen Browning, Kevin Jobe, Cynthia Morrison, Craig Pahl, Michael Simon



Congratulations, 2015 Spring Graduates!

May God continue to guide and bless your journey!