

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park

Welcome to the 2017 Summer 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.

I am pleased to announce that Rev. Shannon Conklin-Miller will be visiting COSSO during the first weekend of the Summer Term. She is the Assistant General Secretary for Clergy Formation at GBHEM, and works specifically with the Course of Study program.

All of us on the COSSO staff are excited to welcome all of you, including eight 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 20
Summer 2017

Welcome Rev. Shannon Conklin-Miller, Assistant General Secretary for Clergy Formation, GBHEM



Rev. Shannon Conklin-Miller serves as Assistant General Secretary for Clergy Formation in the Division of Ordained Ministry. She provides administration for the theological education programs of the Division of Ordained Ministry. She gives leadership to the areas of Young Adult Ministry Discernment and Enlistment, Specialized Theological Education Programs, and Candidacy, Mentoring and Conference Relations.

Rev. Conklin-Miller manages the ongoing development of the Course of Study (COS) program in cooperation with the COS directors and the Division of Ordained Ministry; reviews the United Methodist Studies program and supports and trains teachers to maintain the quality of United Methodist Studies programs in non-United Methodist seminaries; consults with the Council of Bishops, Order of Elders, and Boards of Ordained Ministry to help interpret the need for an educated clergy; facilitates disciplinary process questions and aid in the development of the Order of Elders; and participates in ecumenical dialogues on clergy recruitment and retention to learn from others and to share common concerns.

Rev. Conklin-Miller is an ordained elder in the California-Pacific Conference with two decades of ministry experience as an associate pastor, co-pastor, lead pastor, and as a hospice chaplain. Her ministry has taken her to Chicago, California, and North Carolina. She received her master of divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She has a particular interest in encouraging people to fulfill their unique call to ministry and supporting the continued formation of those who serve.

Rev. Conklin-Miller and her husband Jeff, a faculty member at Duke Divinity School, have two children, Emma and Ethan.

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 Saturday morning at 7:30 AM, before morning worship. 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
2017 Fall	Sept. 22-23 & Oct. 27-28	7/24/2017	NO
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



Anthony Le Donne
 COS 121 Bible I: Introduction
 Dr. Anthony Le Donne received his Ph.D. from Durham University in UK. He is Associate Professor of New Testament at United Theological Seminary and the author of *Near Christianity*.

Paul Kim
 COS 221 Bible II: Torah & Israel's History
 Rev. 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 currently teaches Hebrew Bible at MTSO.



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

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 DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Rev. Rebeka Maples, Ph.D.



FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey



2017 Summer COS Faculty

Brad Binau
 COS 323 Congregational Care
 Dr. Brad Binau received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is Academic Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Diane Lobody
 COS 422 Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
 Rev. Dr. Diane Lobody received a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Drew University. A United Methodist elder, she is Professor of Church History at MTSO.



Britt Leslie
 COS 521 Bible V: Act, Epistles & Revelation
 Rev. Dr. Britt Leslie received his Th.M. and Ph.D. from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. A United Methodist elder, he is currently Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Manchester University in Indiana and South University in Georgia.



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

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 SPRING COS GRADUATES

Floyd Hubbell, Cindee Johnson, Robert Odum

