

From the Director's Desk

Course of Study at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio

Winter, 2006

Volume 4, Number 1

Advantages

- Can register for two classes. Two hours of class time in the AM. Two hours of class time in the PM.
- Form study groups with your classmates on campus.
- Live within walking distance of library and computers.
- Opportunities for worship, Eucharist and other spiritual disciplines woven into the schedule.
- Valuable workshops for pastors provided e.g. Conducting Funerals. Teaching New Hymns to a congregation
- All bedrooms and classrooms are air conditioned.
- Free passes available to use pool and gym at Ohio Wesleyan.
- Within two miles of five theater movie house.
- Close to many shopping centers.
- [Link to a Web page](#)

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Spend Two Weeks in August on 70 acres of Wooded Campus



The summer intensive offers the most educationally satisfying experience of Course of Study. Free of the usual distractions a student is able to give himself or herself over to acquiring the skills to “equip the saints for ministry.” (Eph. 4:12) To reinforce this fact, we offer some testimonials from Local Pastors who made last summer’s intensive (and that was before the dorm was air conditioned!) It is a sacrifice for your family and your congregations, but it is sometimes surprising to learn how warmly they respond to the idea of your being a full time student even if it is only for two weeks of the year. Think about it, pray about it, discuss it with your family and congregation.

The peace of Christ be with you,
Robin Knowles Wallace
Director of the Course of Study of Ohio

**Courses for
Intensive July
31-August 11,
2006**

**114 PASTORAL
LEADERSHIP AND
ADMINISTRATION (AM)**

**212 THEOLOGICAL
HERITAGE (AM)**

**213 FORMATION FOR
DISCIPLESHIP (PM)**

**311 NEW TESTAMENT I
(PM)**

**411 HEBREW BIBLE II
(AM)**

**414 PERSONAL AND
SOCIAL ETHICS (PM)**

**513 OUR MISSION:
TRANSFORMING AGENT
(AM)**

**514 THEOLOGY AND
THE PRACTICE OF
MINISTRY (PM)**

**DEADLINE FOR
REGISTRATION,
MAY 22, 2006**

More information?
www.mtso.edu/cos/
or contact Jessica
Spillman at (740)
362-3120

From Vignia Bell, Pastor of Paradise and Tahquamenon Hulbert Churches

I look forward each summer to the two week "gift" to myself. The food (for body and soul), the fellowship, the resources available (including shopping) and all of the "extras" are a treasures without price. Try it—I'm sure you will like it.

From Brian A. Riley, Pastor of Bethel, Lebanon, Tabernacle, and Zion UMCs *Truly, the Spirit of the Lord was here during this two week intensive. Instructors and students alike had open hearts, open minds, and open doors. Everything was done to provide every COS pastor with every opportunity to learn and grow. Plus great food! I thank God for my wife whose love and support make my service to God possible. To my District Superintendent, Dr. Cecil Belew, for his faith in me as I pursue my studies. Praise God for my circuit. They increased my Continuing Education account to minimize the financial burden on my family.*

From Jean M. Smith, Pastor of Ganges/Glenn United Methodist Churches

It has been both a privilege and a challenge to participate in the summer intensive program at Course of Study for the past four summers. I have never regretted one single summer! I come here weighed down by the burdens of my ministry, of balancing church and home, of struggling to complete the assigned work; however, in the midst of these burdens I am blessed. When I arrive here at school, I am blessed by the fellowship with fellow pilgrims on this journey of ministry, I am blessed by the worship experiences that I am privileged to receive, I am blessed by the sacrament of Holy Communion which I am invited to receive, and by the covenant groups with fellow local pastors as we share our struggles and our praises. It is wonderful to have access to the instructors, the help of fellow students in the class, and the library within walking distance on this beautiful campus. I get so much more out of the course when the work is spread out over a two-week period. There is often too much information to possibly absorb when presented in the weekend formats. And an additional blessing (or curse, perhaps) is that the food is wonderful! My congregations are blessed as well. Though I have to be away from the pulpit for a couple of Sunday mornings, they receive back a pastor who is spiritually rested, renewed, and revitalized. They are also given the opportunity to step up and serve as ministers to one another...an opportunity they would most likely not have if I stayed home and did it for them. While my family and I miss one another, they are finding that they, too, can get along in my absence and, at the same time, find they are an integral part of my ministry. I am able to afford the time away as I am blessed to receive a generous scholarship through the Town and Rural Fellowship in my Conference. I pray that you, too, will get out of the boat and step out in faith trusting that where God guides, God provides!

From Cliff Radtke, Pastor Mendon UMC

I experienced as a first timer at Methesco and a beginner in Course of Study, that there are other people beside me on this walk. I saw how much respect and love everyone has for each person and their ministry. I wondered if I would see Jesus here, and I have!! I'm especially grateful to my wife who encouraged me to give up two weeks of my vacation to be closer to God. She was willing to try to keep everything under control back home. I have never been this long or far away from her. She shared the worry of my job and money decisions we made (like selling our RV to have funds for a laptop and school books.) I just LOVE her.

From Kathy Smith, Pastor

The two-week intensive doesn't seem as intensive as the weekend classes, in my opinion. During the two weeks, we don't sit in class for such long periods of time, we get to know the instructors better since they are more accessible, we have time to do the reading and write the papers away from the demands of church and home, and the worship times are exceptionally meaningful. But the best thing about the two weeks is the great friendship we develop with pastors from so many other places and our lives are enriched by each other's experiences. I would surely like to see more pastors take advantage of it.

From George Lawton, Pastor and COS graduate Fall, 2005

Summer is probably less intense than the week-end sessions. You have time to get to know your instructors, your classmates, your covenant group members and the new people. You have time to socialize, eat lunch together, go to dinner, or cook food together. You get lots of "up and down the hill" exercise. You have time to enjoy sitting and watching the skunk, the deer, or the groundhog. You can escape in your car and not miss a thing. The summer sessions are the best part of COS at MTSO. Sure, there is homework to do and papers to prepare. But you have those for week-end classes as well. The atmosphere can be (not every student makes it so) as laid-back as you want. How you use your 12 days is pretty much up to you. Sure, you miss your families, your churches, and all the problems they are causing you. Most of the time, there is not much you can do about what is happening back home. Just let it be.

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someone@example.com

Plan to come next year and experience a different way of learning and getting to know yourself. It is worth the effort.

offers an effective way to stay in touch with your customers. A well designed and well written newsletter doesn't just keep your business fresh in the minds of your customers; it empowers them with tools and information they can use to build their own business. When your newsletter hits this mark, it strengthens your relationship with your existing customers and piques the interest of potential customers.

When people view information online, they lose interest quickly and have a low tolerance for long articles. As a result, an e-newsletter ought to be brief—typically no more than 1000 words in length. With this sort of limitation, it's very important to choose your content wisely and ensure that it is brief and to the point. Headlines should be short and clear, and each article should aim to make one major point. It might describe a new technology, highlight developing trends, or offer suggestions for building profitability. An article should communicate this major point in two to five sub-points that are easy to understand and are clearly beneficial to the reader. Each article should clarify, encourage, enthuse, provoke thought, and satisfy; it should elicit a positive response. Ideally, it will inspire your reader to decide that your products or services provide the best solutions.

An Article for Everyone

Who reads your newsletter, and what are their responsibilities? What segments of your industry are they concerned about? And do you have data to back up your assumptions? Being able to answer these questions is critical, because only then will you be able to provide the kind of content that readers will be drawn to.



Each member of an industry has unique concerns and issues. By understanding these, you can ensure that every issue of your newsletter contains information that interests as many types of customers as possible. A newsletter about technology in education might offer articles relevant to administrators that describe what they need to know to get technology into their schools. It might also give teachers tips on integrating technology into their classrooms. Parents and students may also be interested in applying the concepts to the way they use technology at home.

The danger, of course, is that if you try to appeal to every type of audience, you may make the focus of your newsletter too broad. In our example, we would not want the newsletter to include articles about how to develop software for the education market. When you write articles that stray too far afield of the newsletter's core purpose or that are too broad in their intent, readers are not able to quickly determine whether the newsletter is of use to them, and they lose interest.

So the issue is of balance: Within the scope of your business and industry, you want to provide something in each newsletter that will be of interest to all the major players in your audience. By doing so, you will ensure that all your readers will continue to return to your newsletter, edition after edition, to find that relevant article that they know is waiting for them.

The Structure of This Template

This template is designed as a two column table. It has a narrow column on the left with a colored background and a wide column on the right with no background color. The top portion of the newsletter before the first article consists of four rows that contain the masthead and date information.

Typically, tables have lines between the rows and columns. However, some tables in this template are formatted with hidden lines. To reveal the underlying rows and columns of a table, click **Show Gridlines** on the **Table** menu. This feature is especially helpful when you're not sure if your document has tables in it or not.

You can change the colors of rows and columns by clicking the area you want to change, clicking **Borders and Shading** on the **Format** menu, clicking the **Shading** tab, and then picking a color. At this point, you should specify whether you want the shading to apply to just the text, the selected paragraph(s), the whole cell, or the entire table.

The dark blue rule that appears over a headline is a characteristic of the headline's paragraph: It's formatted to have a dark blue rule above it. This and all the other characteristics of this paragraph are identified as a paragraph style named **Heading 2**. The first headline in this newsletter does not have a rule since it appears at the beginning of the newsletter. It's a style called **Heading 1**.

