



From The Director's Desk

Course of Study School of Ohio at the Methodist Theological School

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Diane Turner-Sharazz, well-known friend of The Course of Study of Ohio, has been named the new Director of COSSO.

Diane Turner-Sharazz has been a faculty member of the The Methodist Theological School in Ohio since 1994 in the Homer J. Elford Chair in Homiletics. She has regularly taught in the COSSO program since its inception on this campus. Her presentation on African American Spirituality in Music is the most enthusiastically attended and appreciated session during the Two Week Intensive each summer.

She was born in Oklahoma, attended Fisk University in Nashville for her undergraduate degree then re-located in Ohio to attend The Case Western Reserve University School of Applied Social Sciences. After obtaining her master's degree there, she did social work in Cleveland in Children's Services, and the Community Guidance Mental Health Center. In Ashland, OH, she was the Director of Women's Christian Guidance Center. Then she answered God's call to the ministry attending the Methodist Theological School in Ohio where she received her degree with many honors in 1988. Yes, she is an alum of our seminary! She is currently an elder in the West Ohio Conference.

She did Doctoral studies in homiletics and the New Testament at Vanderbilt University. Her most recent publication is the co-authored *Believing in Preaching: What Listeners Hear in Sermons* (Chalice Press, 2005) Since she entered seminary, she has pastored local churches. Her heart is in the local congregation as evidenced by the fact that she still directs the choir for the Asbury North UMC in Columbus. Obviously her background as counselor, preacher, musician and pastor make her a natural choice for the Directorship of Course of Study. Jessica Spillman, Joanmarie Smith, Margaret Van Sickle and Suzanne Happell, the rest of the team, were and are thrilled with her appointment.



Suzanne Happell, Writing Coach for the Course of Study of Ohio

[Suzanne responded to questions about her family and her life.](#)



I have a son George (turns one year old on 2/27) and a daughter Rose (two and a half years old). My husband Kevin is a production editor at Prentice Hall, and he works on textbooks about exciting topics like dirt, beef production, and math.

I previously worked in the position as administrative assistant to the academic dean at Methesco. Having a master's degree in religious studies, I was thrilled at the prospect of working in a seminary environment, as I came to Methesco from working in Health and Safety Services at the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus.

Prior to that position, I also worked as a CPR instructor for the Red Cross, a project assistant for the University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy, assistant to the director of women's

studies at Vanderbilt, teaching assistant for anthropology at Vanderbilt, and a biology lab assistant at the University of Tennessee. I have also served as the student editor for the Religious Studies News (publication of the American Academy of Religion) and as the AAR graduate student liaison at both Vanderbilt and the University of Wisconsin.

Clearly I've dabbled in many fields, but religion is my heart. It was both satisfying and exciting to come to work at a place as warm, welcoming, and affirming as Methesco. I left my position in the dean's office after having my first child Rose in April of 2004, making the decision to become a stay-at-home mom. Then in the fall of 2006, I accepted the part-time positions of writing coach for Course of Study and writing tutor for regular seminary students.

My job involves assisting Course of Study students with both grammar and content of their writing assignments. I also come to campus to teach writing workshops on different topics during each COS session. As someone who truly loves to teach, I particularly enjoy conducting the workshops. Having taught students from a variety of backgrounds and environments in the past, it is truly wonderful to encounter the special warmth, kindness, and receptiveness of the Course of Study students. They make teaching an absolute pleasure.

If you have a paper for your class that you'd like reviewed by COS Writing Coach Suzanne Happell, email it to sooz@columbus.rr.com at least 48 hours before you need it back (if you don't have email, mail your paper to the COS office at least a week in advance of when you need it back)

