**Saint Paul School of Theology, Course of Study School - Summer Course of Study School**

**Update as of 6/10/2020**

Dear Saint Paul Summer 2020 Course of Study School Prospective/Incoming/ Returning Students and Faculty,

Following a video/Zoom Conference meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020 that included GBHEM administrators and Saint Paul School of Theology Leadership, and based on current CDC, State and Local jurisdictions, along with Church of the Resurrection, I want to share with you the following decisions made regarding Summer COS.

GBHEM recommended that Regional COS Schools (Saint Paul School of Theology – COS) not hold residential (on Campus) courses in JULY or AUGUST. We have already changed course of study course formats this 2020 Spring due to COVID -19. Now, to ensure the safety of everyone, Saint Paul COS will provide its 2020 Summer COS courses online. I will be in communication with you and as well our UMC Conference BOM.

GBHEM has granted Regional Schools permission to reformat Summer COS courses so they are completely Online,with some courses totally asynchronous and others with both asynchronous and synchronous portions.This is a one-time accommodation for this Summer only.GBHEM has directed that students may need to take only one online course per session because of the amount of time required to adequately do an online course.

Having this adjustment brings some questions around course completion and COS graduation. However, students have a whole year to take these courses either at a COS Satellite/hybrid weekend school, or hybrid Winter COS, or in the Summer at a regional course of study school,and be able to fulfill their UMC Annual COS Requirements for full-time local licensed pastors to complete all courses. Therefore, your BOM will be able to work with all COS students, and I advise you to consult your UMC Conference BOM. GBHEM will be in communication with all UMC Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry, recommending that they adjust the requirements for both full and part-time local licensed pastors who are enrolled in and starting course of study. Please check with your BOM because they have the authority to decide on some of the matters not dealt with the course of study schools.

The update courses / course schedule will be posted on Saint Paul School of Theology COS web site, [www.spst.edu/cos](http://www.spst.edu/cos), by 6/10, and also emailed to all UMC Conference BOM and to students. As you have been following media outlets, there are is a great amount of uncertainty as to when we will be allowed to travel and gather in larger groups safely. That said, we will not have COS Graduation this Summer, July 16, 2020, but will be communicating with UMC Conferences and you on the possibility to have an actual ceremony.

As a result of moving to online courses students should NOT reserve Hotel rooms this 2020 summer, and if you have already reserved a Hotel room, please call and cancel your reservation. The goal for our plan is to make sure we keep our students moving in their pursuit of theological education, and at the same time being mindful of wellbeing, safety, and responsibility to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jennifer Smith, Saint Paul COS Registrar and Administrator, will be able to help you if you have questions on COS registration: Jennifer.smith@spst.edu, and you can send questions and emails to: IsraelK@spst.edu. We will be pleased to work and assist you as we adjust to this uncertain season of COVID -19. Fall schedule will be release in July for our satellite locations.

Please be assured that Saint Paul School of Theology Regional Course of Study is here to provide, educate and support the UMC with well grounded, missional, spiritual, theological, Christian, evangelical and pastoral leaders for the emerging 21st century Local Church. The COS faculty and staff at Saint Paul School of Theology, GBHEM, and supporting UMC Conferences are working to provide best practices and offering courses in ways that are safe to all in these seasons of challenge, loss, sickness, death, anxiety, and uncertainty.

Any person who requires a reasonable accommodation on the basis of a disability in order to participate in this program should contact the Course of Study School office at 913 253 5016 or IsraelK@spst.edu at least one week prior to the event to arrange for the accommodation

As always, I pray for our students, faculty, Church and the Global World that in times like these we focus our eyes on God, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, to sustain and guide us in providing pastoral leadership to God’s Mission.

May God’s Grace, peace, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



Rev. Israel Kamudzandu

Regional COS Director - Saint Paul School of Theology