

NEOSOM Steering Committee 9/12/20 report to association

Change in members of Steering Committee: Kelly Gerstenberger resigned from committee. We will be re-assessing who will stay, who may want to leave, and who may be added.

Classes:

- **2020 Spring/Summer classes:**

- Five students and one auditor in Dan Doty's **New Testament II** class.
- A new elective, **Literature and Faith Formation**, was taught by Steve Geitgey. 4 students and 1 auditor.

- **2020 Summer/Fall classes:**

Polity will be offered again this fall. Gene McAfee, Rip Noble, Geoffrey Black, David Hill, and Mindy Quelhurst will team teach. Hopefully, this year a hybrid course can be offered to minimize the difficulty with burdensome driving. The Association meeting on November 7 will be part of the course.

Journey course will not be taught this fall because we do not have enough students.

Personal Ethics will be taught this fall by Sharon Alberson.

Homiletics taught by Jeff Nelson

Introduction to Biblical Studies taught by David Cleaver-Bartholomew

Old Testament 3A-B: The Theology of the Old Testament taught by Gene McAfee

- **Future possibilities:**

Gene is working on a course on **trauma and suffering** using references such as C.S. Lewis's The Problem of Pain, Harold Kushner's When Bad Things Happen to Good People, and Jon D. Levenson's Creation and the Persistence of Evil.

Gene and Dan Doty are talking about a course on the **Formation of the Bible Canon**.

In the June meeting, Karen A. mentioned reading **Whitehead (Alfred North Whitehead?)**. Gene learned that Gary Halstead did his dissertation on Whitehead, so this might be a topic for another elective course.

Raising the school's profile:

Discussed using a promotional video to advertise NEOSOM, such as the Northwest Ohio Lay School of Religion uses. We must wait to do this because of COVID-19.

Our Association has never had an active, living Facebook page. Would like to see a NEOSOM Facebook page with a dedicated administrator. We could link our churches' Facebook pages to the Association's NEOSOM Facebook page.

The most used resource is our Newsletter. We could do two-minute videos to be viewed in the Newsletter to advertise NEOSOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Susi Kawolics, NEOSOM Steering Committee Chair