



Training Week for Training Teams

Overview

A sponsor such as a congregation, diocese, judicatory or seminary recruits up to eight participants, arranges for a retreat facility with food and lodging, and assumes financial responsibility for this training. The curriculum includes a reading list, two retreats, and several practicum sessions that give instruction on teaching methods, program procedures, and resource materials, equipping participants to train and develop discernment ministry teams in their own faith communities.

Intended Audience

Prospective trainers must have leadership ability, be well formed spiritually, committed to the principles in *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, and be willing to be part of a team to train others in the practice of spiritual discernment in community.

Summary of Content

The Training Week begins with two consecutive retreats. These cultivate prayerful listening and introduce the group to a wide range of ways to encounter God. Because a Christian's call is rooted in baptism, the first retreat "Pondering the Implications of Baptism" draws participants more deeply into their lives in God. Because human timetables often impede our willingness to await God's voice, the second retreat "God's Time vs. Human Time" invites them to contemplate the fullness of time. Four discernment sessions with a mentor give real life experience in group- discernment. Following each gathering for discernment, a reflective review session provides insight as to what works well and what does not. After returning home from the retreat facility, the group gathers for additional discernment sessions among themselves to complete their training. Once trained, the group trains discernment ministry teams that can lead book discussions, retreat days, educational activities, and serve in discernment groups for persons wrestling with issues, large or small, of any nature including personal relationships, professional concerns, or moral dilemmas.