**SP 2686 Discernment: Ignatius and Beyond, Fall 2022**

**Required Reading (purchase those with \* or use reserve copy; all others posted on Moodle):**

\*Barton, Ruth Haley. *Pursuing God’s Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*.Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-83083572-0. A thoughtful, evangelically friendly approach to developing spiritual leadership for discernment.

\*Bieber, Nancy, *Decision Making & Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way*. Woodstock VT: Skylight Paths, 2012. ISBN: 978-1-59473-289-8. Prayerful introduction to the attitudes and habits that lead to developing a discerning lifestyle.

Brown, Valerie. “Deep Speaks to Deep: Cultivating Spiritual Discernment through Quaker Clearness Committee.” *Presence* 23 (4) 2017, 20-30. Introduction to the version of Clearness Committee promoted by Parker Palmer (posted on Moodle)

Ignatius of Loyola. *Selections from Spiritual Exercises* on Election and Rules for Discernment of Spirits (posted on Moodle)

\*Liebert, Elizabeth. *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*. Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-664-228780-5. Basic introduction to discernment and practices for entering discernment. We will use practices from this book during the course.

Liebert, Elizabeth. “Discernment for our Times: A Practice with Postmodern Implications,” *Studies in Spirituality*, 18: 2008): 333-355, doi 102143/SIS.18.0.2033296. Introduced a format for group discernment based on the Pastoral Circle as described in detail in Liebert, *Soul of Discernment*. (posted on Moodle)

Liebert, Elizabeth. “Praying our Way Forward: Prayer in Ignatian Communal Discernment   
Today,” in press. Uses the Spiritual Exercises and the Deliberation of the First Fathers to clarify the principles and practices in communal discernment in the Ignatian tradition. (posted on Moodle)

Liebert, Elizabeth. “Systems and Structures: What Are They?” Chapter, 3 from *Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions.* Louisville, Westminster John Knox. 2015. Introduces system thinking so that it can inform common discernment. (posted on Moodle)

\*Maney, Tim. *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer: Discovering the Power of St. Ignatius Loyola’s Examen*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2011. Expands the theory and practice of Examen for contemporary audiences.

McColman, Carl and Fran, “An Examen of the Senses.” Blog posted by Coleman McCarthy on *Patheos*, May 26, 2020. (posted on Moodle)

Palmer, Parker. “Clearness Committee: A Way of Discernment.” *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life* (July/August, 1988): 37-40. Provides simple directions and theological context for our practice of Clearness Committee. (Posted on Moodle)

**Additional reading for advanced students, on reserve at GTU library (Recommended for others):**

**Choose one from this group:** **(Library copies on reserve)**

* Gallagher, Timothy, OMV. *The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living*. New York: Crossroad, 2005. ISBN: 0-8245-2291-5. An in-depth treatment of the First Set of Rules for Discernment of Spirits. (reserve at GTU library)
* Gallagher, Timothy, OMV. *Spiritual Consolation: An Ignatian Guide for the Greater Discernment of Spirits*. New York: Crossroad, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-8245-2429-6. Extended treatment of the Second set of Rules for Discernment of Spirits. (reserved at GTU library)
* Toner, Jules. *Discerning God’s Will: Ignatius of Loyola’s Teaching on Christian Decision Making*. St. Louis: Institute of Jesuit Sources, 1991. ISBN: 0-912422-82-3. Classic presentation of Ignatian Communal Decision Making. (reserve at GTU library)

**Choose one from this group: (Library Copies on reserve)**

* Liebert, Elizabeth. *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-664-2397-1. Extends the practice of individual and group discernment into the structural arena. Based on the Pastoral Circle, and engages in dialogue with Theory U. Contains practices used in the course.
* Palmer, Parker. *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward and Undivided Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-7879-7100-7. Develops of Circles of Trust, and adapts the Clearness Committee process for any interested person regardless of relgion/no religion.

**Read each of these at the appropriate point in the syllabus: (available from online periodical resources at GTU library)**

* Futrell, John Carroll. “Ignatian Discernment,” in *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 2 (2). St. Louis: American Assistancy Seminar, 1970. A classic from renaissance of Ignatian spirituality post Vatican II.
* Toner, Jules. “A Method for Communal Discernment of God’s Will,” in *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 3 (4). St. Louis: American Assistancy Seminar, 1971. A classic from renaissance of Ignatian spirituality post Vatican II.