Soul and Role  
(February 15th, 2018)

**Introductions:**  
- Name, role, and how was your winter break?

**Touchstones:**  
- Reminder of our norms

**Today’s Theme:**  
- Current condition of your work world; soul and role  
  - Poetry as the truth told at a slant, storytelling of one’s selfhood  
  - “Ask Me”; when the river of your life becomes frozen over?

**Reflective Dialogue:**  
- What word image or phrase captured your attention around the theme of winter loss and dormancy in work or personal world?  
- Journal prompts that grabbed the attention of your heart?  
- Other noticings?

**General offerings for the group:**

**Closing:**  
- What would you like to carry from this gathering back to your work world at DU?

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*Soul and Role Touchstones*

- Bring 100% of self  
- There is always invitation, always opportunity; never invasion  
  - No fixing, no saving, and no advising  
  - Openness to learning from others  
- Speak for yourself; tell your story  
  - Listen to the silence  
- Confidentiality
“Ask Me”

Some time when the river is ice ask me
Mistakes I have made. Ask me whether
What I have done is my life. Others
Have come in their slow way into
My thoughts, and some have tried to help
Or to hurt: ask me what difference
Their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
At the silent river and wait. We know
The current is their, hidden; and there
Are comings and goings from miles away
That hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

--William Stafford
Questions to Ponder:
If you will

- Has the river of your personal/professional life ever turned ice; when you questioned or doubted your professional calling? What mistakes or missteps did you make?

- Who came into your life during that time to offer advice? What difference did their efforts make at thawing your frozen river of professional identity?

- How does it feel to stand there in silence knowing there is little you can do but simply watch and wait for your river to thaw?

- Where are the deep currents of your personal/professional life heading even though the surface appears still and cold?