

Soul and Role (4-20, 2017)

Introductions:

- Name, role, and favorite fall memory?

Touchstones:

- Reminder of our norms for creating a container for our time together

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
- “The Blizzard” as a metaphor for what it feels like to become disoriented by work.
- Finding ways to tie a rope to our true self as guide back home

Reflective Dialogue:

- What word image or phrase captured your attention around the theme of using loss as a creative force?
- 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?

*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

HOPE

Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of hope-not the prudent gates of Optimism, which are somewhat narrower; nor the stalwart, boring gates of Common Sense; nor the strident gates of self-righteousness, which creak on shrill and angry hinges (people cannot hear us there; they cannot pass through); nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of "Everything is gonna be all right." But a different, sometimes lonely place, the place of truth telling, about your own soul first of all and its condition, the place of resistance and defiance, the piece of ground from which you see the world both as it is and as it could be, as it will be; the place from which you glimpse not only struggle, but joy in the struggle. And we stand there, beckoning and calling, telling people what we're seeing, asking people what they see.

Victoria Safford

Possible Journal Prompts:

1. What is your mission or the truth of your soul that you feel most compelled to tell?
2. What are the different gates you've planted yourself at over the length of your career? What did you find personally/professionally lacking or meaningful at those gates?
3. From your unique and particular "piece of ground" at DU what does the world look like now? What might/should it look like in the future?
4. Who are your allies in the struggle to achieve that which is not yet attainable? What are they telling you about the world they see from their unique "piece of ground"?