

Soul and Role
9-15-16

Introductions:

- Name, role, and favorite seasonal memory

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
- “The Way It Is”; sources of your initial call/draw into higher education

Reflective Dialogue:

- What word image or phrase captured your attention around the theme of soul and role in your work 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?

*Soul and Role Touchstones

- Bring 100% of self

-**Challenge by choice**, never invasion; be courageous and open to wonder/surprise

-Seek **wholeness**; resist fixing, saving, and advising

-Openness to learning from **others**; turn to wonder

-Speak for **yourself**; “I” statements

-Listen to the **silence**

-**Confidentiality**; tell your story

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

By William Stafford, from The Way It Is, 1998

Reflection Questions:

-How would you describe your initial call (thread) to enter higher education?

-What are the “things” that change, around which your call weaves?

-Have you ever lost or misplaced your thread?

-Who or what helps you stay connected to your call?