

Paired Talk – Hearing (your) Here

Thursday, March 11, 2021

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Standing Invitations

As in Seminar One, we'll distinguish between formal convenings and informal conversations this weekend. As you pivot from one practice to the next, know that the foundations laid this morning follow you into this space, as well. You are welcome to draw on steps from our convening model as you set out. Please hold the fellowship's standing invitation to rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship before you as you begin. Remember that what each of us brings to and needs from these conversations can be another difference to notice, name, and nurture. *For eyes that see and ears that hear.*

Session-Specific Instructions

(12:30 – 1:00 pm) Where's (your) Here?

Spend time in quiet individual reflection considering the many and multiple “heres” you inhabit. More than location, your here likely consists of sedimented layers of all kinds of people, places, and things. As you write or walk and wonder, consider the stories that your “here” tells. What kind of wisdom sits in places particular to you and your people? If here is also home—and even if it's not—what about any “theres” you might not claim? What about a “there” that does not claim you? Remember back to this morning's conversations about cornerstones and stumbling blocks. What are the foundations and faultlines of the “here” of you?

(1:00 – 1:30 pm) Hearing (your) Here

Come together in predetermined pairs or small groups (this will vary by site) and share what you are hearing. Can you hear your way into a fuller understanding of someone else's life and story? What kind of curiosity can you bring to your listening? How generously can you reflect back to one another the places from which you live, learn, love, and lead?

(1:30 – 2:00 pm) “Beneath every there is a here.”

Return to quiet, individual reflection to deepen your own understanding. Mark Nepo asserts that “Beneath every there is a here.” Reflect on your paired or small group conversation to consider a variety of interconnected relationships. If you were to map or make sense of the following triads, what would you find in the journey from here to there, between everywhere and nowhere?

yours, mine, ours.
self, story, system.
here, there, everywhere.
with, at, to.
past, present, future.
power, privilege, purpose.