

PERSON, PLACE, & THING:
BEYOND THE NOUN OF LEADERSHIP



2020-2022

SEMINAR 4

Convening Guide

How does it feel to be a problem?
Solving for Fellowship



William C. Friday
Fellowship FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS

Schedule Overview

Pre-Seminar Invitations

Pre-Seminar Emails

Pre-Seminar Reading and Reflection

Pinch Pot Letters

Seminar Materials

History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects (AHRO)
– Chapter 3 “Drums” (Plate)

Dialogue Books (Bohm, Headlee, Horton
& Freire, Parker, Turkle, Wheatley)

Fellowship framing and convening
materials from Seminars One, Two, and
Three

Seminar Four materials (shared in
person on October 21)

Your fellowship journal

Your pinch pot

One another

2020–2022 Framing and Cohort
Questions.

A growing list of Ps.

Your pocket convener.

Calling In. Centering. Core Values.
Conversing. Clearness. Closing.

Rest. Reflection. Relationship.
Reckoning.

Courage. Curiosity. Creativity.
Connection.

Thursday, October 21 (In-Person Only)

(7:00 – 9:00 am)	Traveling
(9:00 – 9:30 am)	Arriving and Settling
(9:30 – 10:15 am)	<i>Questions of Perspective</i>
(10:15 – 10:30 am)	Pause
(10:30 – 12:00 pm)	<i>Questions of Practice</i>
(12:00 – 12:30 pm)	Solo, Paired, or Group Walks
(12:30 – 1:30 pm)	Picnic Lunch
(1:30 – 3:00 pm)	<i>Questions of Problems</i>
(3:00 – 3:30 pm)	Solo, Paired, or Group Walks
(3:30 – 5:00 pm)	William C. Friday Fellows Interview Series
(5:00 – 5:30 pm)	Closing
(5:30 Onward)	Traveling Home
(Evening)	Rest, Reflection, Reckoning, Relationship

Friday, October 22 (Home-Based Retreat, Evening Zoom)

(On Your Own)	<i>Questions of Personhood</i>
(On Your Own)	<i>Questions of Perpetuity</i>
(On Your Own)	<i>Questions of Praxis</i>
(On Your Own)	<i>Questions of Passage</i>
(On Your Own)	<i>Questions of Percussion</i>
(5:00 – 6:30 pm)	Thresholds with Dr. Marcus Harvey
(6:30 – 7:30pm)	Dinner at Home
(7:30 – 9:30 pm)	William C. Friday Fellows Interview Series

Saturday, October 23 (Black Mountain Workshop Day)

(Before 9:30 am)	Traveling
(9:30 – 10:00 am)	Arriving and Settling
(10:00 – 11:30 am)	Translating (across) Difference
(11:30 – 12:30 pm)	Paired Walk or Solo Retreat
(12:30 – 1:30 pm)	Boxed Lunch
(1:30 – 3:00 pm)	<i>Harmony: What Music Can Teach Us About Community</i> A Workshop with David LaMotte
(3:00 – 4:00 pm)	Paired Walk or Solo Retreat
(4:00 – 4:30 pm)	Closing
(4:30 – 5:30 pm)	Social Hour
(5:30 Onward)	Traveling Home

Saturday, October 23 (Raleigh Workshop Day)

(Before 9:30 am)	Traveling
(9:30 – 10:00 am)	Arriving and Settling
(10:00 – 10:30 am)	Warming Up
(10:30 – 12:00 pm)	<i>The Making of a Modern Day Folk Dance: The Art of Leaning In</i> A Workshop with Michelle Pearson
(12:00 – 1:00 pm)	Picnic Lunch
(1:00 – 1:45 pm)	Solo, Paired, or Small Group Walk
(1:45 – 3:30 pm)	Dialogues and Differences
(3:30 – 4:00 pm)	Kicking It
(4:00 – 4:30 pm)	Closing
(4:30 – 5:30 pm)	Social Hour
(5:30 Onward)	Traveling Home

Saturday, October 23 (Charlotte/Virtual Workshop Day)

(Before 9:45 am)	Traveling
(9:45 – 10:00 am)	Arriving and Settling
(10:00 – 10:30 am)	Charlotte Walk-and-Talk
(10:30 – 12:00 pm)	Dialogues and Differences
(12:00 – 12:45 pm)	Greenway Goings and Comings
(12:45 – 2:00 pm)	Travel Home & Lunch
(2:00 – 4:00 pm)	<i>What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums</i> A Virtual Workshop with Jaki Shelton Green
(4:00 – 5:00 pm)	Solo Retreat Time
(5:30 – 6:30 pm)	Social Hour
(6:30 Onward)	Traveling Home

Sunday, October 24 (Zoom)

(10:00 – 10:30 am)	Optional Virtual Coffee Hour
(10:30 – 11:15 am)	Object Lesson
(11:15 – 12:00 pm)	Journaling
(12:00 – 12:30 pm)	Lunch/Break
(12:30 – 2:30 pm)	Invitation Ceremony & Closing

Full Schedule

Freedom is not a secret. It's a practice.

Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Seminar Four of the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations builds on all kinds of things – people and places, too. Will you keep looking for yourself and others in the stones beneath your feet? What about smoke rising still and strong and silent? Are you sensing the sacred (burning) (being) (becoming) all around? What if the gift is noticing the drumbeat that carries yours and mine to ours and theirs. Will you feel it? And what then?

At the heart of the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations is a practice. Like Alexis Pauline Gumbs' conception of freedom, the practice of fellowship is neither secret nor special, even as it is specific and sure and salient and strong. A practice wants for the kind of transparency and trust that keep an eye out for trauma and turmoil before transformation becomes its own testimony. This fellowship practice also wants for a kind of time and commitment that flourish in the context of invitation. Among others, this question remains: **Will you keep practicing?**

Three seminars deep, some truths are surfacing in the form of questions, others in problems that stretch and strain across time and place. How then will you and I make the leap from self to story to system to something else? And what will surface (in us) along the way?

Seminar Four will see dialogue partners from previous seminars return for regional workshop sessions. New colleagues will join us, too. Each invitation is intentional as we model what it takes to lead in relationship. Together, and also always apart, we'll be moving from questions of being and gifting to perceptions and experiences of feeling. Over one hundred years ago, W.E.B. Du Bois wondered about the felt experience of a particular kind of problem. As we gather together in places built for different kinds of bodies and birthrights, we'll keep feelings at the forefront. Problems, too. Will you bring yourself and all the Ps that you need? We'll be looking for you and your pinch pots as we keep listening and learning and leading together.



Thursday, October 21, 2021 (in person)

*History Beyond Representation and Respectability;
Her Story, Too*

*"I believe that the end of
all education is to teach
one to live completely."*

(CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN)

*"I could tell you about
problems."*

(LIZ TORRES MELENDEZ,
ASSISTANT SITE MANAGER
CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN
MUSEUM AT PALMER MEMORIAL
INSTITUTE)

Seminar Four will open in a full day of in-person, outdoor convening. Fellows will journey to the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at Palmer Memorial Institute (CHB) in Sedalia, North Carolina. The only official historical site in North Carolina dedicated to the life's work of an African-American woman, CHB opened in 1987. Today, the site falls under the purview of newly installed North Carolina Deputy Secretary for the Office of Archives and History and 2020–2022 Faculty Fellow Darin Waters. An institution founded by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown to educate Black students in the segregated South, CHB is a poignant place to consider the weekend's guiding question that W.E.B. Du Bois raised in The Souls of Black Folk in 1903, one year after the founding of the Palmer Institute. How does it feel to be a problem?

7:00–9:00 am

Traveling

Please plan your travel to arrive at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at Palmer Memorial Institute with enough time to ensure a 9:30 am start to the day. As you make your way across the state, would you prepare to engage the life of Dr. Brown and her complex legacies at the CHB and beyond? Consider listening to one or more of the following histories of both Dr. Brown and curated framing materials. When we move beyond representation and respectability (their own important landing places in the process of history-making), can the “first lady of social graces” be understood as powerful and problematic, too? And is that move humanizing or harmful or more? **Pathways matter.**

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown & Her Legacies. A Conversation with Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum Site Manager, Lacey Wilson. History Lunch Break, August 29, 2020. A Program of the Greensboro History Museum.

Manners Matter: The Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum. A Conversation with Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum Site Manager Jamie Jones and Museum of History educator Sally Bloom. North Carolina Museum of History Live, February 4, 2019.

The Frame that Holds the Story. TEDxSeattle with Nikkita Oliver. Uploaded to YouTube March 22, 2017.

Opening Plenary. “R-E-S-P-E-C-T-A-B-I-L-I-T-Y: Black Women’s Studies since *Righteous Discontent*.” Conference at Brown University. September 19-20, 2019.

9:00–9:30 am

Arriving and Settling

Welcome! Please settle in with one another. Hunter, Darin, and I look forward to seeing you under the picnic shelter. Thank you for honoring CDC and NCDHHS COVID guidelines **at all times**. Masks up! Hand sanitizer out! And please refrain from any form of touching without first inquiring about individual pandemic protocols. Thank you for continuing to protect yourselves, one another, and the communities to which you will return. **Pandemics matter. People, too.**

9:30 – 10:15 am

Questions of Perspective – Feeling Our Way Forward (and Back)

In this opening session, Faculty Fellow Darin Waters will be joined by Director of the N.C. Division of State Historic Sites Michelle Lanier. Together, they will raise Du Bois’ question on ground both hard and holy before offering reflections on what it feels like

to gather in this particular place. Hearing Seminar Four's framing question together, we will prepare to feel out the relationship between perspective and time. What kinds of histories are surfacing in 2021? And what kinds of knowing was situated and shaped in places like the Palmer Institute, and in scholars like Du Bois and Dr. Brown? Waters' former student and Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at Palmer Memorial Institute Assistant Site Manager, Liz Torres Melendez, will provide a welcome to the historic site.

Pasts matter.

10:15 – 10:30 am

Pause

The work of arriving takes time, especially when you pay attention to place. For those still looking to land and lean in, this short break will invite intentional pause into a circle about to call itself back together. ***Pause matters.***

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Questions of Practice – Circling Up and Clearing Through

This morning session will circle back to Seminar Three to pick up things (feelings and problems, too) not only where we left off, but where those same things (feelings and problems, too) might be sitting (differently) today. Lead Faculty Meredith Doster will host a clearness convening for the naming, hearing, and honoring of Seminar Three gifts that might benefit from shared unpacking. Fellows, pinch pots, and all kinds of feelings are welcome! Following a clearness conversation that balances considerations of practice with commitments to community and care, the cohort will call itself in as we officially open the seminar weekend. You can access the full convening guide at [this link](#). ***Process matters.***

12:00 – 12:30 pm

Solo, Paired, or Group Walks – Finding (your) Footing

With the cohort called in and centered, you will have time to walk (individually or in small groups) across the Palmer Institute campus. Some might consider what it takes to raise questions about problems in this particular place. What needs to be named and noticed and nurtured here? Others might take up the problems and practices of fellowship as they show up in any space. Wherever your conversations and pathways lead, will you check in with one another about how this day is feeling? And what about this place? How is it faring? ***Perambulations matter.***

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Picnic Lunch

The morning sessions will be followed by a catered boxed lunch under the picnic pavilion. All known dietary restrictions will be accommodated. You are always welcome to bring your own food and drink, as well. Should you bring food or snacks to share, many thanks for leaning toward individually-wrapped packages. **Picnics matter.**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Questions of Problems – The Places that Make or Break Us

In this fourth installment of Faculty Fellow Darin Water's "The Places that Make or Break Us" series, we will listen in as teacher and student meet at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at Palmer Memorial Institute. This conversation between Dr. Waters and assistant site manager Liz Torres Melendez will follow their relationship from an undergraduate classroom at the University of North Carolina at Asheville to their current roles curating North Carolina histories. Walking and talking across the CHB campus, Waters and Melendez will use Seminar Four's framing question to engage the ways that problems and histories go hand in hand. **Professors matter. Promotions, too.**

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Solo, Paired, or Small Group Walks – Retracing Pasts

Following a dialogue between former teacher and student (now also colleagues) at a site with histories surfacing and silent still, you'll take a second stroll with friends and colleagues (now also fellows). How does your experience of this site shift or evolve now that you've walked a mile in the shoes of assistant site manager Liz Torres Melendez? She experiences the campus in three distinct yet overlapping phases or spaces. What are you feeling in the presence of one another and in this place that offers its own answer to searing questions about problems of birthright, of being, of becoming? **Pairings matter.**

3:30 – 5:00 pm

William C. Friday Fellows Interview Series

Before winding down the day, we'll take the opportunity to hear from one another in this fourth installment of the Friday Fellows interview series. Faculty Fellow Darin Waters will engage Kelly, Lara, LaTanya, and Tara in an informal conversation about their lives and leadership. As in previous seminar weekends, Waters will draw on questions submitted in individual application materials, as well as questions that draw on fellowship themes. **Platforms matter.**

Do you remember a different afternoon? That's likely because map and territory are rarely the same, and a program is not the same thing as the people walking its pathways. In this instance, the day shifted to accommodate an unfolding journey. You'll see this session "repeated" on Friday evening, when we actually turned to this interview series.

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Closing – Pass the Beat

We will close out the day passing the beat of fellowship. Sitting or standing together, we will listen to the beats you surfaced in preparation for our time together. Perhaps that beat has shifted over the course of the day? We'll hear what things – people and places, too – feel like when we parse what matters from pinch pots to drums to the heart of fellowship. **Percussion matters.**

5:30 Onward

Traveling Home

Sometimes silence is the perfect accompaniment for a long drive home; a short one, too. Should you welcome a different kind of retreat, consider tuning in or zoning out to [these songs](#) shared by fellows for Seminar Four. Safe travels! **Playlists matter.**

Evening

Rest, Reflection, Reckoning, Relationship

If it feels right, would you reflect on the day's offerings? What kind of rest and reckoning and relationship found you? What about gifts and practices and problems and more? If your household has space for a gentle remembering of the day's work – wonderful. If it does not, blessings on the people, places, and things before you. May we continue to remember the differences that mark more than the miles between us.

Perspective matters.

Friday, October 22, 2021
(Home-Based Retreat, Evening Zoom)

Feeling Forward, Choosing Fellowship

It only takes one good conversation
to change your understanding of
someone else's world, your world,
and the world at large

Celeste Headlee

There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares about.

Margaret Wheatley

Real dialogue is where two or more
people become willing to suspend
their certainty in each other's
presence

David Bohm

In a world of infinite choices,
choosing one thing is the
revolutionary act. Imposing that
restriction is actually liberating.

Priya Parker

Here we are trying to decide how
to get moments of each other's
lives and to bring them into a
book, a book which does not lose
the essence of life. A dialogue is
as the life that comes from the
earth's springs.

Myles Horton and Paolo Freire

Life is a conversation and you
need places to have it. The virtual
provides us with more spaces for
these conversations and these
are enriching. But what makes
the physical so precious is that it
supports continuity in a different
way; it doesn't come and go, and it
binds people to it. You can't just log
off or drop out.

Sherry Turkles

What can a practice of fellowship look and sound like? That depends on many things – people and places, too. Today, it depends on you. The following self-paced modules invite a deepening of your own fellowship practice-in-the-making. By design, the Friday Fellowship is a multi-modal, multi-vocal journey that hopes to hold space for all kinds of learning and unlearning at the crossroad of rest, reflection, relationship, and reckoning. Can these insights from our six dialogue authors whet your appetite for the kind of conversation or dialogue, life or liberation, community or choice you welcome most today? What can we keep learning from the places where individual volumes and voices meet their match in a circle or conversation or convening? Should this plethora of possibilities not feel right, please consider this your blank slate. An ability to feel out the needed, necessary, and nurturing is core to hosting and helping and healing yourself and others. We'll be glad to hear and honor what the day has held for you when we gather on Zoom for an evening session with Dr. Marcus Harvey, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and the other half of the Waters and Harvey Show. Following his reflections on thresholds and theories both terrifying and tremendous, you'll step into paired conversations that take up the weekend's framing question. ***How does it feel to be a problem?***

(On Your Own Time and In Your Own Place)

- Questions of *Personhood*** } **What does it feel to be you?**
For possibilities, please see these linked invitations.
- Questions of *Perpetuity*** } **What does fellowship look like in your home communities?**
For possibilities, please see these linked invitations.
- Questions of *Praxis*** } **What is the relationship between practice and praxis?**
For possibilities, please see these linked invitations.
- Questions of *Passage*** } **Which thresholds might you/me/we choose to cross?**
For possibilities, please see these linked invitations.
- Questions of *Percussion*** } **What will your drum sound like?**
For possibilities, please see these linked invitations.

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Thresholds with Dr. Marcus Harvey (Zoom Link)

After a day spent feeling your way forward, we'll join [Dr. Marcus Harvey](#) for his reflections on the questions and themes coalescing at this crossroad of our fellowship journey. A scholar of Africana religions, Dr. Harvey will take us to the thresholds at which he perceives both problems and possibilities in his life and scholarship. Dr. Harvey will welcome questions after his talk-back conversation that will also take up the Water Drums documentary. **PhDs matter.**

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Dinner at Home

Food and fellowship continue to go hand-in-hand. Before we end the day in paired conversation, please nourish yourself in ways meaningful to you and your families. **Pause matters.**

7:30 – 9:00 pm

William C. Friday Fellows Interview Series (Zoom Link)

Shall we take the opportunity to hear from one another in this fourth installment of the Friday Fellows interview series? Faculty Fellow Darin Waters will engage Kelly, Lara, LaTanya, and Tara in an informal conversation about their lives and leadership. As in previous seminar weekends, Waters will draw on questions submitted in individual application materials, as well as questions that draw on fellowship themes. **Platforms matter.**

Saturday, October 23, 2021
(Regional Workshops)

Of Programs and Practices – The Work of Fellowship

“Just because you’re not a drummer doesn’t mean you don’t have to keep time.” (THELONIUS MONK)

“First forget inspiration. Habit is more dependable. Habit will sustain you whether you’re inspired or not. Habit will help you finish and polish your stories. Inspiration won’t. Habit is persistence in practice.” (OCTAVIA BUTLER)

In this fourth iteration of COVID-calibrated fellowship, we will parallel our very first convening as we co-host regional gatherings across the state. Do you remember Lattimore, Rockingham, and Tarboro? And how folks read different summer texts in anticipation of our first session together? Perhaps you remember that David LaMotte and Jaki Shelton Green shared gifts, as well? By design, we are going back for our own and those traveling with us. This weekend, we’ll be meeting in Black Mountain, Raleigh, and Charlotte for regional days that include workshops, conversations, and late afternoon social hours hosted by Friday Fellows from previous cohorts. While many 2020–2022 fellowship adaptations are surely pandemic related, they are not without their own merit and meaning. What is the give-and-take of fellowship in this and any season? And do these gifts open up new perspectives and possibilities amid pain and problems, too? Ps matter. All of them.

Site One – Christmount 222 Fern Way, Black Mountain, NC 28711

Before 9:30 am

Traveling

First things first: an early morning road trip. As we're all heading out from home to various locations across the state, some will have farther to go than others. Many thanks for checking your route to ensure an arrival time that matches the day's schedule. **Planning matters.**

9:30 – 10:00 am

Arriving and Settling

Darin, Hunter, and I will be co-hosting workshop days across the state with each of you. Upon arrival, will you check in with yourself and others gathering at your location? What does welcome feel like? Would you extend a warm greeting to one another? After settling in, each site will follow a different schedule. The invitation to keep feeling out the right balance of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship stands. **Participation matters.**

10:00–11:30 am

Translating (across) Difference

From Questions to Problems: Solving for Fellowship

This morning session will invite those gathered to reflect on the relationships between questions, problems, and practices of all kinds. What are you solving for? If a practice of fellowship holds enough space for you and me and some kind of we, what happens when questions and problems collide? Sound something like cornerstones and stumbling blocks? In this session, we add the beating of our own hearts to each unique fellowship equation. You can find the specific convening guide at [this link](#). **Practices matter.**

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Paired Walk or Solo Retreat

With the equation of fellowship resounding still, would you feel out what you need next? Consider pairing up or enjoying intentional quiet time on the Christmount campus. What does fellowship feel like to you today? Follow that bliss and beyond. **Peace matters.**

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Boxed Lunch

The Christmount campus comes with a boxed lunch you may order upon arrival, though all dietary restrictions may not be available. Please bring your own lunch if you wish. Additional snacks are welcome and all fellows are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle. Food and fellowship? Still a winning combination. **Peas matter.**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Harmony: What Music Can Teach Us about Community

A Workshop with David LaMotte

Songwriter, speaker, and writer [David LaMotte](#) will share insights from his work at the intersection of creativity, justice, and community. As you might remember from his Seminar One concert, David's music is balm and blessing and beautiful. This workshop will amplify the weekend's themes of drums sounding, hearts beating, and humans becoming. **Percussion matters.**

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Paired Walk or Solo Retreat

After the final crescendo, a turn to silence. You'll once again be invited to walk in ways you most welcome. Feeling some alone time? Welcoming some solo journeying? The way is always waiting. **Pathways matter.**

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Closing

Before turning to a social hour, you will end the day as it began: in circle and conversation. What will it take to close out the day? What remains to be said? Are we clear to close? **Parallels matter.**

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Social Hour

At all three sites across the state, Friday Fellows from previous classes will host an informal social hour to close out the day. Friday Fellow Dale Freudenberger (2017–2019) will join you for light snacks and drinks. Those who need to get on the road can grab things on their way to the car. We hope this will be a moment of cross-contamination in the best way possible. What does fellowship mean to someone else? And how could that meaning matter to you? **Perspectives matter.**

5:30 Onward Traveling Home

As you get on the road again, what kind of journey will carry you all the way home? A sentimental one? One full of kicks? Consider downshifting with some travel tunes? Or perhaps this seminar's selections from the cohort? Silence remains golden, as well. **Playlists matter.**

Site Two – Baileywick Park

Picnic Shelter 1, Baseball Field 2, 9501 Baileywick Road, Raleigh, NC 27615

Before 9:30 am

Traveling

First things first: an early morning road trip. As we're all heading out from home to various locations across the state, some will have farther to go than others. Many thanks for checking your route before you set out to ensure an arrival time that matches the day's schedule. **Planning matters.**

9:30 – 10:00 am

Arriving and Settling

Darin, Hunter, and I will be co-hosting workshop days across the state with each of you. In Raleigh, Friday Fellow (2017–2019) Shannon Moretz will be supporting and sharing in the day. Upon arrival, will you check in with yourself and others gathering at your location? What does welcome feel like? Would you extend a warm greeting to yourself, and to others, too? After settling in, each site will step into a different schedule. The invitation to keep feeling out the right balance of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship stands. **Participation matters.**

10:00 – 10:30 am

Warming Up

Your morning will move quickly into a workshop space. Before diving in, please greet the day and all guests together.

Would you circle up and call yourselves in?

Would you get quiet and center as a group? Consider this poem. Or this one. Or this.

Would you name what matters (to you) today?

With your practice begun, would you check in with one another about how the day is feeling? Are you ready to begin? **Process matters.**

10:30 – 12:00 pm

The Making of a Modern Day Folk Dance: The Art of Leaning In

A Workshop with Michelle Pearson

Michelle Pearson is the artistic director of the Black Box Dance Theater (BBDT), a North Carolina-based company known for the making of deeply human and physically compelling dance. Among other projects, BBDT is now touring PATRIOT, a collaboration with the NC Arts Council and the USO, among veteran and military communities throughout NC and beyond. Michelle is a Friday Fellow from the 2006–2008 cohort, former chair of the WLI board of advisors, and workshop leader for previous classes. Will you get ready to lean in with her and with one another?

Preparation matters.

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Picnic Lunch

The Raleigh workshop day is taking place in a public park – the perfect place to enjoy a picnic lunch you bring from home. Nearby restaurants should serve those who prefer to pick up something midday. Feeling something else? You might consider coordinating a picnic potluck. What does it take to make sure the table is set for all? Enjoy! **Picnics matter.**

1:00 – 1:45 pm

Solo, Paired, or Small Group Walk

You've greeted the day, learned and moved together, and shared in a meal. What does the day feel like it needs next? Consider walking through the park on your own or in pairs or small groups. If your body is ready to rest, consider spending some time journaling about the work of fellowship as it is unfolding in you. What kind of movement is meaningful in this moment? **Possibilities matter.**

1:45 – 3:30 pm

Dialogues and Differences

Convening in the largest numbers, the Raleigh group will decide together how to proceed into the afternoon's conversation(s). What matters more or most? Sitting together? Breaking into smaller groups? Tackling one question? Or the other? Or both? However you choose to proceed, please feel your way forward.

Translating (across) Difference – From Questions to Problems: Solving for Fellowship

This convening will invite those gathered to reflect on the relationships between questions, problems, and practices of all kinds. What are you solving for? If a practice of fellowship holds enough space for you and me and some kind of we, what happens when questions and problems collide? Sound something like cornerstones and stumbling blocks? In this session, we add the beating of our own hearts to each unique fellowship equation. You can find the specific convening guide at [this link](#). **Practices matter.**

Dialogue (Book) Session

Each Fellow left Seminar Three with one of six dialogue texts. The invitation to read together – between the lines, across selections – was seeded way back in Summer 2020. Would you sit together and share what you are reading and learning? What does it take to step into the kind of conversation that matters? And what kind of dialogue techniques might serve the conversations you and your communities need to have? You can find the specific convening guide at [this link](#). **Pages matter.**

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Kicking It

With a group this size, what kind of play might you enjoy together? We've provided a kickball, but perhaps you're feeling something else? What kind of fun can you have together? Will you watch both your circle and the clock? **Play matters.**

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Closing

Before turning to a social hour, you will end the day as it began: in circle and conversation. What will it take to close out the day? What remains to be said? Are we clear to close? **Parallels matter.**

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Social Hour

At all three sites across the state, Friday Fellows from previous classes will host an informal social hour to close out the day. Friday Fellows from the 2017–2019 cohort Shannon Moretz and Faith Patterson (currently serving on the WLI board of advisors) will be joining you for light snacks and drinks. Those who need to get on the road can grab things on their way to the car. We hope this will be a moment of cross-contamination in the best way possible. What does fellowship mean to someone else? And how could that meaning matter to you? **Perspectives matter.**

5:30 Onward Traveling Home

As you get on the road again, what kind of journey will carry you all the way home? A sentimental one? One full of kicks? Consider downshifting with some travel tunes? Or perhaps this seminar's selections from the cohort? Silence remains golden, as well. **Playlists matter.**

Site Three – Little Sugar Creek Greenway, Blumenthal Foundation, and Mecklenburg County Board of Elections
1355 Greenwood Cliff, Charlotte, NC 28204

Before 9:45 am Traveling

First things first: an early morning road trip. As we're all heading out from home to various locations across the state, some will have farther to go than others. Many thanks for checking your route before you set out to ensure an arrival time that matches the day's schedule. **Planning matters.**

9:45 – 10:00 am Arriving and Settling

Darin, Hunter, and I will be co-hosting workshop days across the state with each of you. Upon arrival, will you check in with yourself and others gathering at your location? What does welcome feel like? Would you extend a warm greeting to yourself, and to others, too? After settling in, each site will step into a different schedule. The invitation to keep feeling out the right balance of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship stands. **Participation matters.**

10:00 – 10:30 am Charlotte Walk-and-Talk

Charlotte-based Fellows will meet in the parking lot of the Blumenthal Foundation office before heading on a short walk by the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections to nearby Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Walking-and-talking with WLI director Hunter Corn, you will consider how it feels to move across the spectrum of what is deemed public and/or private by different entities. A long-time Blumenthal Foundation program officer may also join you for a welcome and introduction to the family and foundation's history in the area. **Public and private matters.**

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Dialogues and Differences

Small groups offer unique possibilities, and this trio or quartet might be able to tackle two conversations in the time a larger group could only consider one. As always, this question remains: What is the right order of things – conversations, too?

Translating (across) Difference – From Questions to Problems: Solving for Fellowship

This morning session will invite those gathered to reflect on the relationships between questions, problems, and practices of all kinds. What are you solving for? If a practice of fellowship holds enough space for you and me and some kind of we, what happens when questions and problems collide? Sound something like cornerstones and stumbling blocks? In this session, we add the beating of our own hearts to each unique fellowship equation. You can find the specific convening guide at [this link](#). **Practices matter.**

Dialogue (Book) Session

Each Fellow left Seminar Three with one of six dialogue texts. The invitation to read together – between the lines, across selections – was seeded way back in Summer 2019. Would you sit together and share what you are reading and learning? What does it take to step into the kind of conversation that matters? And what kind of dialogue techniques might serve the conversations you and your communities need to have? You can find the specific convening guide at [this link](#). **Pages matter.**

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Greenway Goings and Comings

The [Little Sugar Creek Greenway](#) is part of a major urban stream restoration project, as well as a connector of people, places, and things. Once completed, the trail will run from Toby Creek Greenway on North Tryon Street to Cordelia Park just north of uptown. The greenway will continue through the urban section and on to the South Carolina state line. Enjoy a walk together through an urban landscape. What can you learn about your surroundings on this particular pathway? What does it take to reclaim a place for other things, like waterways and wisdom? **Preservation matters.**

12:45 – 2:00 pm

Travel Home and Lunch

Charlotte-retreating fellows will head home for lunch and quiet preparations before a virtual afternoon workshop. **Pacing matters.**

2:00 – 4:00 pm

What We Keep Keeps Us: *Exploring Our Human Museums* A Virtual Workshop with Jaki Shelton Green (Zoom Link)

North Carolina Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green will facilitate a creativity salon focused on *What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums*. As we think of ourselves as our own curators or personal anthropologists, we will create and explore what's in our human museums and how these primary sources shape our lives, our values, and our creativity.

Workshop participants are invited to bring artifacts, photos, objects, heirlooms, or stories that hold special meaning for them. This session will include a writing exercise and discussion that examines the many narratives, memoirs, stories, poems, novels, and legacies that are hidden in full sight... just waiting to be written. **Poets matter.**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Solo Retreat Time

What feels like the right way to begin winding down your day? A cup of tea? An afternoon walk? A nap? Consider what the intersection of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship is calling for as you prepare to head to a social gathering among friends and fellows. **Pause matters.**

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Social Hour

At all three sites across the state, Friday Fellows from previous classes will host an informal social hour to close out the day. The Charlotte group will meet up with 2017–2019 Friday Fellow Monica Gibbs on the patio at [Optimist Hall](#) (1115, N Brevard St, Charlotte, NC 28206). Hunter will join you for a first round of light snacks and drinks. We hope this will be a moment of cross-contamination in the best way possible. What does fellowship mean to someone else? And how could that meaning matter to you? **Perspectives matter.**

6:30 Onward

Traveling Home

As you get on the road again, what kind of journey will carry you all the way home? A sentimental one? One full of kicks? Consider downshifting with some travel tunes? Or perhaps this seminar's selections from the cohort? Silence remains golden, as well. **Playlists matter.**



Sunday, October 24 , 2021

*Stretching and Sounding Together –
Invitations to Fellowship*

On the final morning of Seminar Four, we will return to practices begun in virtual settings and sustained over the long arc of the pandemic. An optional coffee hour will be followed by lead faculty Meredith Doster's third in a series of object lessons that count sticks and stones and smoke and drums among things—people and places, too—that matter. The weekend will conclude in some quiet journaling followed by an invitation ceremony and closing. How does it feel to be a problem? And what do those problems have to do with fellowship? Pinch pots matter.

10:00 – 10:30 am

Optional Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom Link)

It's been a long weekend, but perhaps you have not yet had an opportunity to enjoy a tea or coffee with someone from across the state. If morning fellowship feels right, would you grab a favorite beverage and greet the day on Zoom? ***Pixels matter.***

10:30 – 11:15 am

Object Lesson

Human Downbeats, Drumming up Difference (Zoom Link)

In this morning session of our final day together, lead faculty Meredith Doster will share reflections on the third object of our journey. What are we building with stones and incense and drums? What kind of listening and learning comes beat by beat?

Profane matters. The sacred, too.

11:15 – 12:00 pm

Journaling – An Invitation

With four seminars behind us and lifetimes to go, would you spend some time in quiet reflection? What is your heart knowing about this thing called fellowship? What kinds of truths are surfacing about that which you can give and gift in this season and that which you can not? You will bring these reflections to our invitation ceremony.

Preparation matters.

12:30–1:30 pm

Lunch/Break

Need a breather? Or bathroom? Or blessing? Or some other kind of barometer? What kind of pause will sustain you for a home-based home stretch? ***Pause matters.***

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Invitation Ceremony & Closing (Zoom Link)

Fellows and fellowship are related things, but not the same. So, too, programs and practices. What kind of process or program or practice is translating into something legible for you? Will you bring your pinch pot and short statement of intention and invitation to our closing circle? There are no right or wrong ways to notice the kind of commitments you can make to yourself and others. Will you consider these questions as you prepare to call-in an invitation before you call yourself out? ***Praxis matters.***

What does fellowship mean to you?
.....

What can you bring or keep bringing?
.....

What are you open to receiving?
.....

And what kinds of parameters can we respect to support your fellowship and flourishing?
.....

Here, too, we see fellowship at work in a design that shifts and shapes up to meet a mood or moment before it is lost to time. While these final edits were minor, they mattered.
.....

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Circling Forward and Back – A Closing

Fellows and fellowship are related things, but not the same. So, too, programs and practices. What kind of process or program or practice (or some other word – even one that doesn't start with a P!) is translating or transforming or turning into something for you, legible or otherwise? **Would you spend time in quiet reflection on the following three questions?**

When we come back together, we'll move through a closing circle that calls in that which each holds sacred.

Name

What do you hold sacred? By which I also mean: what matters to you?

What does fellowship mean and/or feel like to you?

How can we accompany you on your journey?

If it feels right, we'll move through our closing circle in the order in which we began our very first calling in ceremony. Many thanks for attending to the time we have, which is limited today. After our closing circle, we'll open books and look to the future. We'll meet you – not always in the middle – but in places that matter.
.....

Lead in peace. Lead in kindness.
Lead in love. Lead in grace.

We'll see you in January! Further reflection materials will follow by email.

Person, Place, & Thing:
Beyond the Noun of Leadership



William C. Friday
Fellowship FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS