

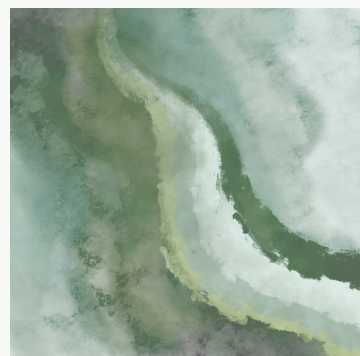
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WILLIAM C. FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP
FOR HUMAN RELATIONS

SEMINAR II

JANUARY 25-28, 2024

READING GUIDE



Dear Class Members of the 12th William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations,

As we round the corner to a new year and look toward our second seminar, I hope each of you has found refuge and respite lately. For so many of us, there is much to tend to during this season, and so I hope you have had the space and time--even if for just a breath at a time--to tend to your wellbeing. Tending with care seems particularly important as the pains of our world ache loud and clear.

Meanwhile, the darkness of the setting sun creeps earlier and earlier. Have you noticed? What comes up for you during this seasonal shift? Is there a pattern to your mind and body's response? Can you offer yourself to be curious about that?

Often, when I find it difficult to metabolize the hedging darkness of winter amidst the grief of being alive in an unjust world, I turn to nature. I offer myself the opportunity to remember that humans are nature, too. The texts for Seminar II take up a similar line of inquiry, each in their own way.

Building from our work in Seminar I to lay the relational foundation, Seminar II will focus on reflection as a practice of awareness, mirroring Dr. Shawn Ginwright's first pivot.



Seminar I

Being and Becoming

Introductions

*From where and
who do you come?*

Seminar II

Awareness:

Pivot from lens to mirror and shift
from an external focus that limits
our perception to one of honest
self-reflection

Practice: Reflection

*How do we practice
clarity of truth?*

The enclosed reading guide is intended to offer you personal, supportive space to reflect on what you are learning, considering, and contemplating as you read. Again, there are no perfect answers and you can remain assured there will be no quizzes. You will notice there is a good bit of repetition throughout the guide. This is purposeful and intended to draw out an iterative process of making connections across the curriculum over time. Please also note that both *Four Pivots* and *Undrowned* have reflection questions and practices that would be worthwhile to explore.

As I was preparing this guide, I was growing weary about how early sunset seemed to cloak the evening. Every day darker earlier than before, and with so many more days until the turn of the winter solstice.

But, as it turns out, I was wrong. Somewhat. According to the Farmer's Almanac, the earliest sunset just recently passed on December 8th. Why? Because of its elliptical orbit around the sun, Earth moves faster in its orbit during January when we're closest to the sun. That motion of the sun's path through the sky appears to make a lopsided figure-8 pattern. The sun's position, seemingly a bit lopsided or off course, causes it to arrive at the eastern horizon a bit earlier in December than the solstice, the shortest day of the year.

There are many lessons to learn there, but suffice it to say: sunset is already arriving seconds later, soon to stretch out the light of our day a little longer. I look forward to connecting with you all and engaging the perspectives and questions herein.

warm wishes and with care,
Beth

grace lee boggs

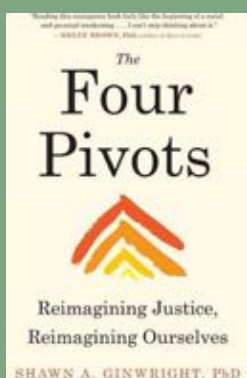
We never know how our small activities will affect others
through the invisible fabric of our connectedness.
In this exquisitely connected world, it's never a question of
'critical mass.' It's always a question about critical connections.

*You don't choose the times you live in,
but you do choose who you want to be.
And you do choose how you think.*

SEMINAR II READING

WHAT TO READ

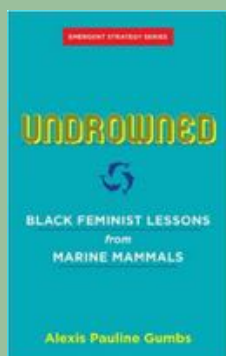
A SNIPPET



Introduction
(pp. 1-23)

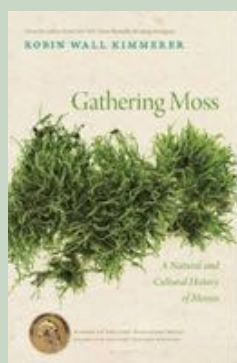
Pivot 1: From
Lens to Mirror
(pp. 23-69)

"That's what we need as individuals, as communities, and as a society. A pivot acknowledges collective harm and individual injury but also leans into the future and opens entirely new possibilities. A pivot involves renewing our sense of possibility, transforming how we see the world, and shifting the value of our culture. This can only happen when we foster a collective imagination that restores that restores communal wisdom that embraces both imagination and engagement, empathy and power, reflection and action" (p. 17).



The whole book!

"We can cultivate practices for finding each other in a shifting world. We can each create an intentional approach to what we take in and put out. What are the intergenerational and evolutionary ways that we become what we practice? How can we navigate oppressive environments with core practices that build community, resistance, and more loving ways of living?" (p. 43).



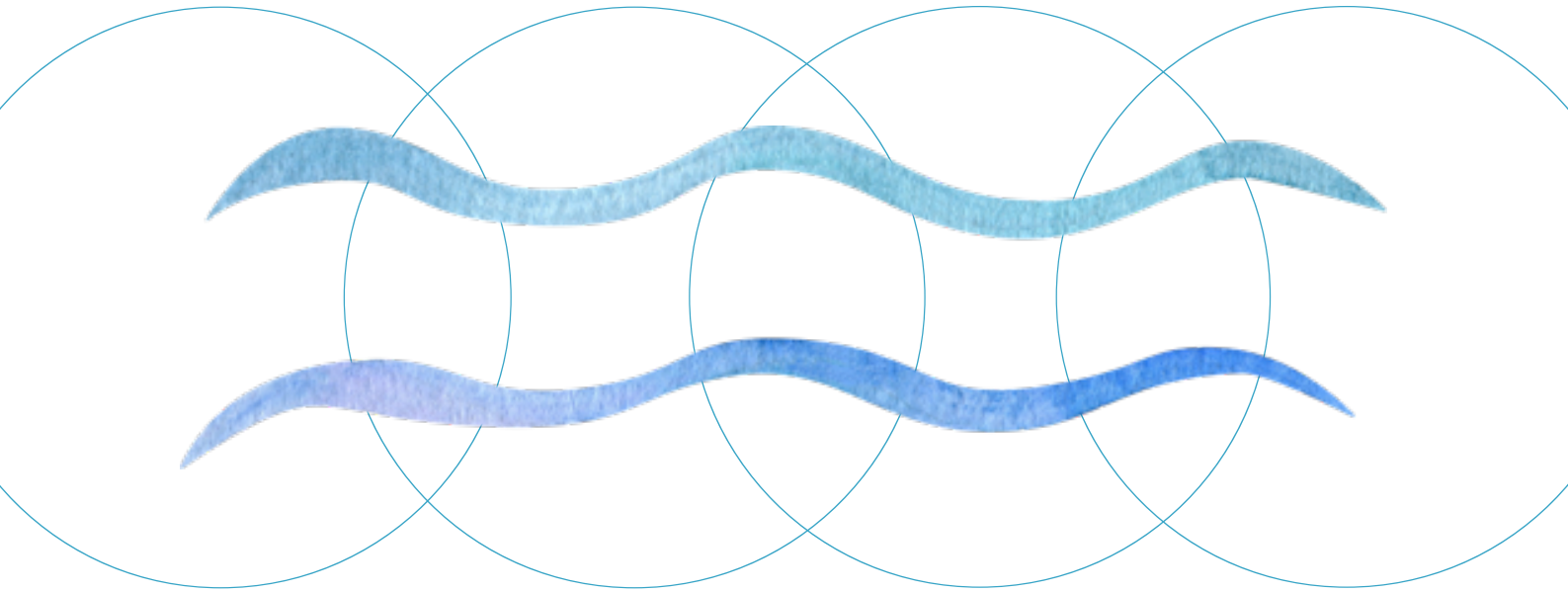
The whole book!

"In indigenous ways of knowing, it is understood that each living being has a particular role to play. Every being is endowed with certain gifts, its own intelligence, its own spirit, its own story... The foundation of education is to discover that gift within us and learn to use it well. These gifts are also responsibilities, a way of caring for each other." (p. 100)

Just as mountaintop removal destroys and decimates sacred ground, our souls are assaulted by imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy...

When we work to protect our community as well as the earth which is our witness, the ground on which we stand, we create the conditions for harmony, fellowship, peace.

BELL HOOKS, BELONGING: A CULTURE OF PLACE



What is made possible through reading a singular story?

What is made possible through differing perspectives of the same story?

What is made possible through reading a collection of stories?

What is made possible through reading as a collective?

What questions or curiosities does our collective reading raise?

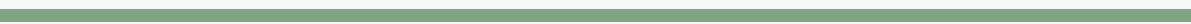
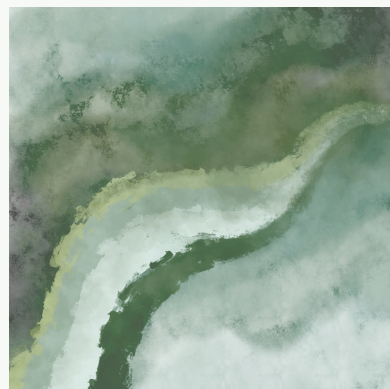
What limitations surface? For you, individually? For us, as a collective?

**How do our collective questions shape our ideas about leadership?
North Carolina? Our communities? The Friday Fellowship?**

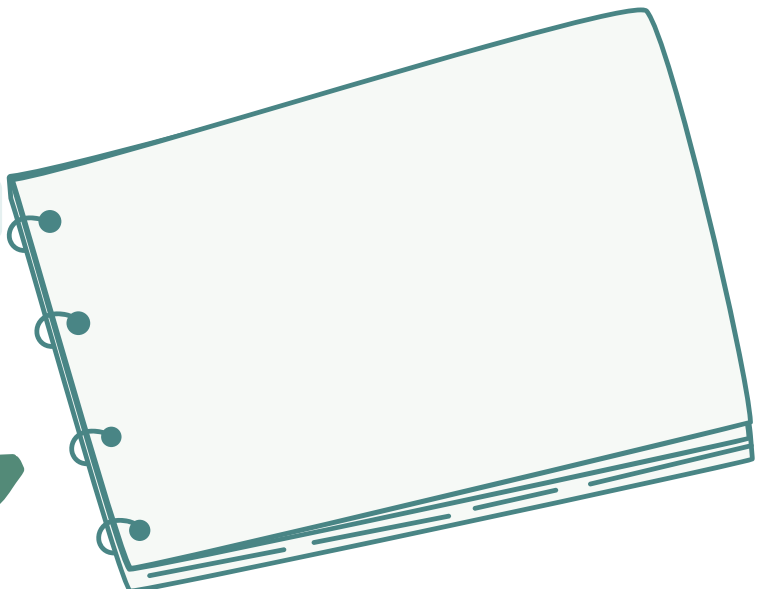
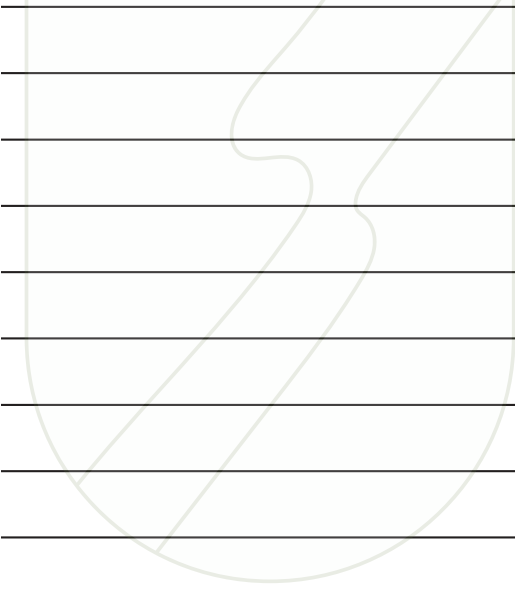


FOUR PIVOTS

SHAWN GINWRIGHT, PHD



What are you hoping to learn from this text?



FOUR PIVOTS



MAKING MEANING: *QUESTIONS DURING READING*

What or whose story did you find in the text?

Whose voices are reflected in the text? Are multiple voices or perspectives present?

What took you by surprise?

How do you navigate confusion when you encounter something unfamiliar?

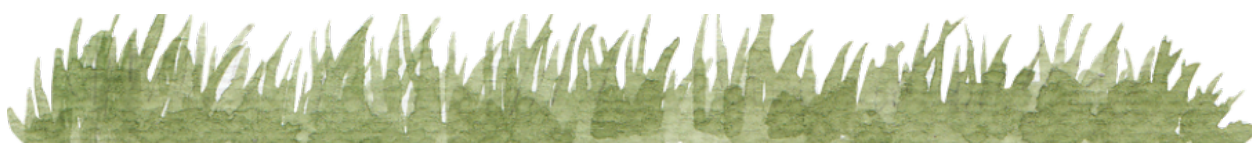
How does community show up in the text?

Are themes of change or transformation present?

What questions or curiosities did the reading stir for you?

How did it feel to begin reading? What energy or focus did it take you to complete the text? What did it require of you to finish reading?

What are you left wondering?



FOUR PIVOTS

RE-MEMBERING CONNECTIONS: *QUESTIONS BEFORE, DURING, AFTER READING*

In what ways does the text connect and/or contrast with your life story?

How does the text shape your ideas about leadership?


What ideas or themes might the text offer for North Carolina? North Carolinians?

What will you carry with you from this reading?

What might you need to know, do, or have next?

**WITHIN THE WORD WE FIND
TWO DIMENSIONS, REFLECTION
AND ACTION, IN SUCH RADICAL
INTERACTION THAT IF ONE IS
SACRIFICED -EVEN IN PART- THE
OTHER IMMEDIATELY SUFFERS.**

PAULO FREIRE,
PEDAGOGY OF THE OPPRESSED

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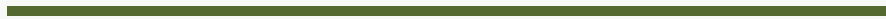
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that resonate with you.*

OTHER NOTES, QUOTES, IMAGES TO REMEMBER...

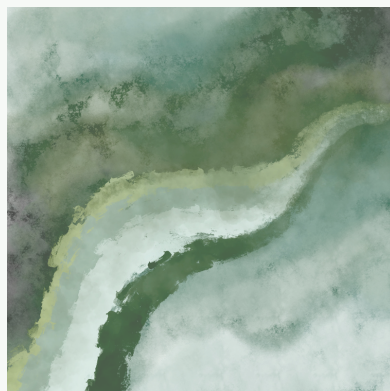
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UNDROWNED



ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS, PHD



UNDROWNED

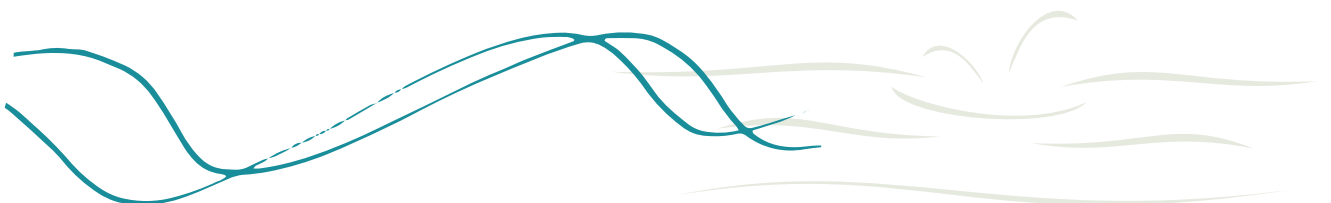


TURNING TO THE TEXT: *QUESTIONS BEFORE READING*

What curiosities are you bringing to the text?

What assumptions do you bring to the text,
and from where do those assumptions come?

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UNDROWNED



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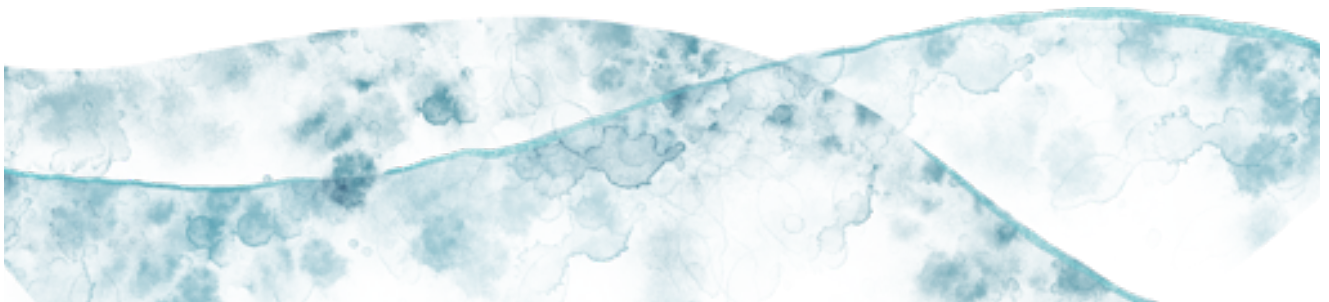
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quotes from the book
that resonate with you.*

OTHER NOTES, QUOTES, IMAGES TO REMEMBER...

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GATHERING MOSS

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER, PHD





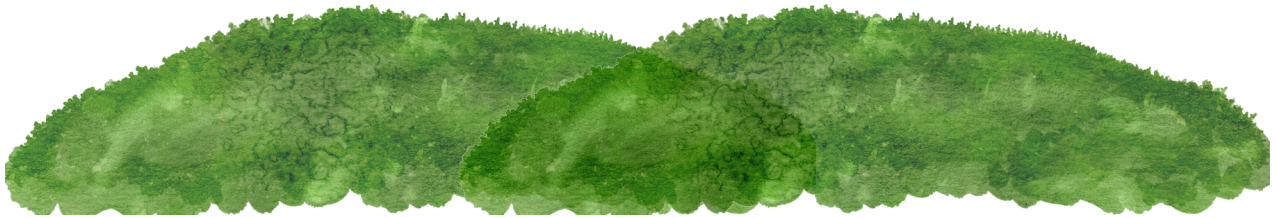
GATHERING MOSS

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CONNECTIONS

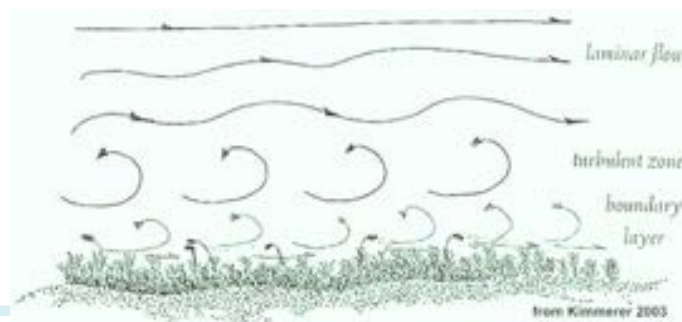
AS YOU READ

How do each of the authors (Ginwright, Gumbs, Kimmerer) speak of community? Inner peace? Public interaction?

Tend carefully to your conversations and interactions over the next couple of months. Simply take notice, as you are able, of your mind and body.

What kinds of conversations bring you into (or out of) the flow of things?

What challenges you most about engaging in compassionate communication?



It's not easy to stay calm in a dust storm or slow down when we are in the swirling, twirling clouds of confusion and uncertainty. This is why clarity is an ongoing practice, not an ultimate destination. {Four Pivots, p. 84}

CONNECTIONS

AS YOU READ

**What connections are you
making across the texts?
Within your daily life?
Use this space to take note.**



May we all learn that pain is not the end of the journey, and neither is
delight. We can hold them both--indeed hold it all--at the same time,
remembering that everything in these quixotic, unpredictable,
unsettled and unsettling, exhilarating and heart-stirring times is a
doorway to awakening in sacred world. (p. 124)

Pema Chödrön,
Living Beautifully with Uncertainty and Change



Sound Waves

DR. GINWRIGHT DISCUSSES FOUR PIVOTS AT CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3skV1fAwO8>

DR. KIMMERER DISCUSSES THE STORY OF MOSSES

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3FSpMMzUNI>

DR. GUMBS' UNDROWNED IN CONVERSATION WITH ADRIENNE MAREE BROWN

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3_GUGaZOrI

PEMA CHÖDRÖN OFFERS A GUIDED MEDITATION

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl9FRX8kaIE>

