

## SESSION 2

### WHAT GIVES ME JOY

**Brief check-in** at the beginning of the meeting while eating lunch

**Focus Questions:**

- a) *Do you have any thoughts or reflections related to the discussion we had in our last session?*
- b) *Describe the part of your work that gives you the most joy. Describe the part that gives you the least joy.*

2) **Quiet reflection** – Meditative Reading - after lunch.

**Reader 1:**

“The Dream of a Common Language”  
Twenty-one Love Poems, by Adrienne Rich

The rules break like a thermometer...  
Quicksilver spills across charted systems.

We’re out in a country that has no language,  
no laws  
Chasing the raven and the wren through  
gorges unexplored since dawn.

Whatever we do together is pure invention.  
The maps they gave us were out of date by  
years...

**Reader 2:**

Debra Hintz

Dreams come and go in our lives.  
Far more die that come to reality.

What is it in us that allows us to  
let go of visions that could create  
new and beautiful worlds?

Why do we so easily give in to barriers?  
Why do we let ourselves conform and be  
satisfied with what is?

Reaching out to a dream can be risky.  
It can involve hardships that our  
imaginations never knew.  
Our comfortableness can be so easily  
disturbed.

But, what beauty can be experienced as we  
accept the challenge of a dream!  
What a precious feeling to be supported, to  
have others say you can do it, we can do it  
together.

Nothing is beyond our reach if we reach out  
together.

**Background Readings.**

Parker Palmer *Let Your Life Speak, Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, Chapter 3, “When Way Closes”

*explore*, Spring 2003, Vol. 6. No 2, pp 12 – 31. (Series of articles by SCU faculty and staff on vocation.)

3) **Discussion and sharing** – issues or thoughts that the readings stimulated in you or other items you want to talk about. Below is a series of quotes and focus questions taken from the readings for the day which may serve as reminders. Feel free to review these quotes or not and the focus questions responding only to those which strike a cord in you. Open sharing. (60 Min)

**A) Parker Palmer** (pg 38): “Ruth’s reply was a model of Quaker plain-speaking, ‘I’m a birthright Friend,’ she said somberly, ‘and in sixty-plus years of living, way has never opened in front of me.’ She paused, and I started sinking into despair. Was this wise woman telling me that the Quaker concept of God’s guidance was a hoax?

“Then she spoke again, this time with a grin. ‘But a lot of way has closed behind me, and that’s had the same guiding effect.’

“...Ruth’s honesty gave me a new way to look at my vocational journey...: there is as much guidance in what does not and cannot happen in my life as there is in what can and does – maybe more.”

***Focus Question:** Can you tell about a time when you experienced in your life the same thing that Palmer describes in his vocational journey as “way closing behind him.”*

**B) Parker Palmer** (pg. 44) “Despite the American myth, I cannot be or do whatever I desire – a truism, to be sure, but a truism we often defy. Our created natures make us like organisms in an ecosystem: there are some roles and relationships in which we thrive and others in which we wither and die.”

(pg. 47) – “There are some things I ‘ought’ to do or be that are simply beyond my reach...If I try to be or do something noble that has nothing to do with who I am, I may look good to others and to myself for a while. But the fact that I am exceeding my limits will eventually have consequences. I will distort myself, the other, and our relationship – and may end up doing more damage than if I had never set out to do this particular ‘good.’ When I try to do something that is not in my nature or the nature of the relationship, way will close behind me.”

***Focus Question:** Can you spot in your vocational journey times when you wanted to do good and virtuous things you thought you ‘ought’ to do for which you had no real talent?*

**C) Lulu Santana**, SCU Campus Minister – *explore* Magazine article (p27) – “At this time in my life I am at peace that I am living out my vocation by being a campus minister. I look forward to each day and feel energized by the students whom I am privileged to serve. .... Within the University’s desire to educate the whole person, there is no doubt that my day-to-day interactions with students continue to educate me and give me insights into how I am living my vocation today.”

***Focus Question:** Does the work you do at Santa Clara University connect with your sense of your personal vocation? If yes, how? In what ways does your work connect you to the mission of the university?*