Am I Lost or Am I Searching?
SHIFTING MINDSETS TO CREATE A PATH FORWARD

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Spirited Practice and Renewed Courage
Am I Lost or Am I Searching?

AFFIRMING YOUR PATHWAY

Career steps and personal gifts that give us hope, purpose, and meaning. Begin to glimpse, affirm, and create the path forward.
SPARC - a program of the Friends Council on Education

- Leadership development program
- Two-year cycle for teachers and administrators
- Activities, dialogue, and reflection
- Explore personal and professional growth
- Based on principles from educator and philosopher Parker Palmer's Courage and Renewal work:
  
  "WE TEACH WHO WE ARE."
Exercise our reflective muscles

LISTEN
Deeply, fully, without seeking to join

PAY ATTENTION
Body language, choice of words

ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS
What would help my partner?
Share about a teacher who has made a difference in your life, positive or negative.
Traveler, there is no path.
The path is made by walking.
By walking, you make a path.

Antonio Machado
"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."

Parker Palmer in *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*
Fluent
I would love to live
Like a river flows;
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.

John O'Donahue
Individual Reflection

JOURNAL - CREATE IMAGE

CHOOSE THREE TO FIVE "STEPPING STONES" THAT BRING YOU TO THIS MOMENT RIGHT NOW

LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR RESUME: PEOPLE? IDEAS? EVENTS?

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE: PATTERNS? TRENDS? HIGH/LOW POINTS?
Turn to a partner, or two...

- **WHY DID YOU INCLUDE THESE STEPPING STONES?**
- **WHAT EMOTIONS DO THEY BRING UP IN YOU?**
- **DO THEY FIT INTO A PATTERN WITH OTHER STEPPING STONES?**
- **HOW DO THEY FIT INTO WHO YOU ARE TODAY?**
On-going tool: "Continuous Revelation"

• DOES A STEPPING STONE SUGGEST OTHER STEPPING STONES?

• WHAT WOULD YOUR BEST FRIEND MAP OUT AS YOUR STEPPING STONES?

• WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DID THIS AGAIN IN A WEEK? IN A YEAR?
Applications in school life

TRY THIS WITH STUDENTS

TRY THIS WITH COLLEAGUES, DEPARTMENT

BUILD A REFLECTIVE PRACTICE
“Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you.

“Before you tell your life what truths and values you have decided to live up to, let your life tell you what truths you embody, what values you represent.”

*Parker Palmer*
For more information about SPARC

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