

Journal: Week four

Objectives

- To continue the practice of reflective journaling.
- To reflect on the assigned reading for the week.
- To prepare for our shared engagement this week.

Materials

For this exercise you'll need your journal, the Harris reading guide and book, and a newsletter or website from your teaching congregation (or other setting).

Procedures

1. Decide whether you will work on this exercise in three segments, or all at once. Make sure that you set aside appropriate amounts of time based on your decision (an hour per segment would be appropriate).
2. Look over the Maria Harris reading guide: what questions can you answer quickly without looking at the book? Mark those on the guide, and then choose a question for which you do NOT have an immediate answer and reflect upon it in your journal. Write that question in your journal. Was the reading unclear on that question? Maybe you disagree with Harris, or want to take issue with her on an idea. Spend some time reflecting in writing on the unanswered question you identified. If you could answer all of the questions on the reading guide, identify a quotation from the book that you either really like — or really disagree with — and explain why.
3. On another page of your journal, investigate the website or a newsletter from your teaching congregation (or other setting). What specific learning opportunities are regularly available for people in the congregation? What forms of evangelism does this congregation engage in? In what ways, if at all, does this congregation acknowledge the multi-faith nature of its context?
4. Begin another page of your journal, and use it to reflect on the curriculum at Luther. What drives Luther's curriculum? What are the major themes or categories in use?