

The grace of great things

(taken from Parker Palmer's *The courage to teach*, (Jossey-Bass, 1998)

We invite *diversity* into our community not because it is politically correct but because diverse viewpoints are demanded by the manifold mysteries of great things.

We embrace *ambiguity* not because we are confused or indecisive but because we understand the inadequacy of our concepts to embrace the vastness of great things.

We welcome *creative conflict* not because we are angry or hostile but because conflict is required to correct our biases and prejudices about the nature of great things.

We practice *honesty* not only because we owe it to one another but because to live about what we have seen would be to betray the truth of great things.

We experience *humility* not because we have fought and lost but because humility is the only lens through which great things can be seen – and once we have seen them, humility is the only posture possible.

We become *free men and women* through education not because we have privileged information but because tyranny in any form can only be overcome by invoking the grace of great things.

(pp. 107-108)