4/15/14

Care conversation between Ryan Hall and Carrie Doehring

1. How did you prepare yourself emotionally and spiritually for this conversation today?

2. You have now written and talked about your traumatic experience in various contexts. Could you please reflect on how your response to the experience has changed over time?

3. You wrote that God was essentially absent as a loving force when you were 12; when you thought about God at all, God was an extension of the aloof, judging nun who was the principal of your school. Could you talk about how you see God today and summarize the course of how your beliefs evolved?

4. What other core beliefs have changed as a result of this traumatic experience?

5. Take me back to mid-day Mass at your high school when you were 15. Describe your sensory information. What about those masses was so regenerative for you?

6. You were ordained Presbyterian, but notably it was in the context of the denomination of your youth—Catholicism—that you first broke through the inertia and silence about your earlier trauma. You said that were at a silent retreat at a Jesuit center, and a priest there created a safe place for you to experience the gamut of feelings you had stored up. Tell me more about what the priest did to create that safe place and/or why that time in your life was right for the transformation you had.

7. How was this processing just now for you? (How are you feeling right now?)