You may collect these reflections and bring them with you on April 30th, or bring/send them to Rev. Takouhi before April 10, 2023 – to the church or by e-mail: revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca

Grace United Church

The Way Forward #3 – March 12, 2023

Dear Grace United Church,

Welcome to Week #3 - In this Season of Lent, we invite you to consider spending time reflecting on who you are, individually and communally, and help each other journey together and move forward through the Grace of God.

This Community of Faith has been wrestling to find the way to see where God is calling us to go and how we can get there. However, before we can get to the where and the how, we need to know who we are and to whom we belong. Therefore, for the next five Sundays (Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26), **we invite you to take the time to read these short definitions and ask you to reflect on those words and meditate on what those words and definitions mean to you and to this Community of Faith.**

We are blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett from our Regional Council guiding us through these exercises. By God's Grace, we are planning to gather on **April 30, 2023**, after worship celebration and enjoy a potluck lunch together and bring our thoughts and reflections to the table and explore who we are together.

We need your participation, because without "U" there is no ch**u**rch – we are all members of the Body of Christ.

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with **Rev. Takouhi (613-777-0880) or revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca**

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The following are the topics we will reflect upon together through Lent:

<u>Who Are You?</u>

- **Hospitality & Discernment**
- **Healing & Contemplation**
- **Testimony & Diversity**
- **Justice & Worship**
- **Reflection & Beauty**

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Testimony

Testimony is the practice of people talking about their experience of God. It is rooted in early church practice and involves people speaking to the power of God changing lives and communities.

It is an opportunity to share stories of faith outside of church. Stories are about finding meaning, finding unique selves, and finding God in a confusing and chaotic world. It is sometimes called a "spirituality of imperfection".

Reflect on this definition through the life and ministry of Grace United Church:

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Diversity

Traditionally, congregations formed around common language and customs. The contemporary understanding of the value of diversity is that it reflects God-love for all humanity.

Diversity can mean different politics, theologies, cultures and races. Congregations embrace diversity as a way of living out God's love for all peoples: It upholds the notion that despite our differences, we will be transformed by love.

Reflect on this definition through the life and ministry of Grace United Church:

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