

**Grace United Church**  
**The Way Forward #1 – February 26, 2023**

Dear Grace United Church,

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 church – 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](mailto:revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca)

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

**Who Are You?**

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



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**Hospitality**

Hospitality is a way of caring for all God’s children. It is welcoming strangers into community. It is a central practice of faith that is done for its own sake, not as a means to recruit new members. As a follower of Christ, you will sometimes be a host, sometimes the guest. Christian hospitality changes both the host and the guest. It is a way of overcoming fear and isolation.

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

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### Discernment

Discernment is reflecting on how a person knows that what they do, think or feel is right, holy or of God. Discernment is about asking God-questions instead of I-questions. For example, the question is not, 'what do individuals want of and from the church?' but rather 'what does God want of the church and its people?'

Discernment includes reflective questioning and making faithful connections between the past, the present and the future. It includes reflecting on Scripture, congregation- wide call and vocation processes, individual and group spiritual direction, and prayer practice.

Discernment includes serious reflection on scripture, grounded in prayer and informed by experience. It can be as simple as telling stories, asking straightforward questions, and listening for the way forward.

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

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