



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Grand Rapids has a rich history of faith beginning with the spiritual traditions of the Three Fires Native Americans to early Christian settlers, from the generations of immigrants who brought their native faith traditions and vibrant Jewish congregations, to today's rich heritage of Muslim and Hindu people; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids area is fortunate to enjoy a strong tradition of religious-public cooperation where people of faith have played a prominent role in our civic and cultural life and the delivery of vital human services; and

WHEREAS, West Michigan's religious landscape has diversified dramatically, raising the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly interfaith community and creating an ever greater need for understanding and cooperation among all people; and

WHEREAS, to understand and respect other creeds, members of religious congregations, educational institutions, and community organizations are encouraged to devote energy to the thoughtful study of all faiths and engage in respectful conversation with people of other traditions;

NOW THEREFORE, I, George K. Heartwell, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, do hereby proclaim the year 2012 as the

YEAR OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

in Grand Rapids, and urge all citizens to learn and seek understanding of the rich diversity in our community and the world.




George K. Heartwell