



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

September 11, 2014

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Grand Rapids has a rich history of faith beginning with the spiritual traditions of the Three Fires Native Americans, then the generations of immigrants and their faiths, from early Catholic, Jewish, and Reformed settlers to today's Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and secular groups; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids area enjoys a strong tradition of religious-public cooperation in which people of faith have played a prominent role in our civic life, culture, 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 faith groups; and

WHEREAS, members of congregations of faith, educational institutions, and community organizations came together in 2012 for the Year of Interfaith Understanding;

NOW THEREFORE, I, George K. Heartwell, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, do hereby proclaim the year 2015 as the

YEAR OF INTERFAITH SERVICE

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


George K. Heartwell