

Engaging in Grace-FULL Conversations

At Grace United, we live out our core values by abiding by 3 our Guiding Principle: *Belonging, Learning, Connecting in Grace*. Therefore, when we gather to do the work of the church we are all invited to join in the conversations and dialogues. Each person's idea or opinion is to be equally considered and valued. We remember the importance of "listening so we may understand and not simply respond" and the wisdom of the Dalai Lama who says (paraphrased) that when we talk we are only repeating what we already know, but when we listen there is the possibility of learning something new.

We strive to engage in Grace-FULL conversations. GRACE-FULL is defined here as:

G = GOD at the centre of our listening, silence and speaking

R = RESPONSIBILITY for what we say and feel without blaming others.

A = APPROACH new ideas with curiosity and wonder

C = CONSIDER our own assumptions and perceptions, what we hear and feel before we speak

E = ENCOURAGE sensitivity, kindness, compassion, patience, courage, and open-mindedness

FULL = Of God's Spirit, we lean into God's transformative love, as we seek a safe community where each person's dignity and worth are affirmed and celebrated.

Drafted collaboratively by the Transition Team
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