

## Ann Fletcher Testimonial 9-29-2024

I began attending East Shore in 2003 when my young adult daughter invited me to visit it with her. She had selected East Shore based on the values expressed on its website. And sure enough, before long, we both joined.

As I look back on my time at East Shore, I realize how much my experiences with this congregation have meant to me. They teach me to stand in my truth and face my fears. They show how my truth can evolve for the good. They bring me a sense of purpose and great joy.

Women's Perspective was the first group I joined. It helped me build confidence and try my wings with some leadership.

Next, I started to work on our beautiful Grounds including the P-Patch. This satisfied my love of nature and gardening and led me to share the abundance of that with others. The Memorial Garden gave me opportunities to reflect on life and mortality and to help those in grief find solace.

My desire for care and reciprocity among humans and our environment led me to join the Earth and Climate Action Ministry. Our work such as sharing Earth Day services and the recent Climate Justice Revival makes me feel happy. I feel connected as a community contributor for a better world.

When I took the Build Your Own Faith class, it encouraged me to bring together my personal values and beliefs and then build on that. How wonderful that I could weave special parts of previous faiths I'd explored into UU pluralism, to create a rich tapestry where love and learning bridge many differences.

My time on two Minister Search Committees taught me to be patient with false starts and struggles, to trust in the depth of our members, to persist toward our shared vision, until we succeeded in calling a wonderful minister to our congregation.

My time on the Board and several Board Committees helped me see how our institution is an important structure to protect and enhance our community with strong healthy bonds, and to hold safe the values that inform our spiritual learning.

Now East Shore is calling on me to provide needed financial support through our annual operating fund drive. What has nourished me now needs nurturing more than ever. That is why I recently turned in the most generous pledge I could! Please join me!