

## **UUAA Board Candidate Statement: Vilma Mesa**

My family and I joined the congregation in 2001, a year or two after we moved to Ann Arbor, as we were seeking a congregation that would welcome us as immigrants, harbor our different religious backgrounds, and would give our children a solid set of values to be in the world and understanding of various religious traditions. We have been involved in various aspects of congregational life since we joined, mainly with the Spiritual Growth and Development Program. I have served in the Visitors' Welcome, the nominating committee, the leadership development team, and the "celebration Sundays." Currently I sing with the Chalice Singers and am part of the ministerial search team that selected a candidate for the Senior Minister position. In this last role, I have come to understand UUAA's past and its current needs and have become more aware of the role that our congregation plays at the personal, local, regional, and national levels.

As a member at large of the Board of Trustees, I seek to bring this understanding and to listen to the voices of the congregation so that I can make informed contributions to our decision-making process. I am interested in supporting our aspirations to become a more diverse congregation that can welcome all who seek community and social progress.. I pledge to listen, ask questions, seek to discern and understand the options that we have, and to represent our hopes for the future, and to do what I am asked to do, in support of our vision.