

Welcome from Rev. EdWard Thompson, Minister of Music

Dear Prospective Candidate,

Welcome to the Unitarian Church in Westport! Thank you for your interest in this congregation.

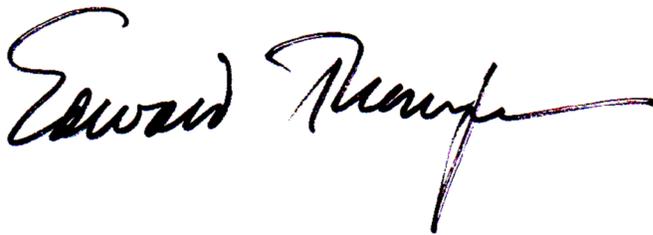
In the last thirty some years I have seen this congregation pass through a number of 'hills' and 'valleys'. To be sure, it is a very different congregation from what it was in 1978, when I arrived. Yet, there are certain characteristics that remain intact. It is a congregation that has tremendous potential and a lot of creativity. It seems to me that the word 'search' is the operative word, in both an outward and inward sense. They are eager to search the horizon to see which recent discoveries and developments might be of value to their lives. At the same time, they wish to have a home that is loving and upholds enduring values.

One of the tools that is very important for this congregation is music. Music, in its 'performance' aspect, requires the whole self: body, mind, intellect and spirit. It is in this wholistic approach that spirituality takes shape. While it is important to have the 'right' words, it is also important to have the right feeling behind the words, and hence, the importance of music. As Thomas Merton once pointed out, it is through art that we both 'lose' ourselves and 'find' ourselves at the same time. The eight choirs and other singing opportunities help us on our individual and communal journeys.

This congregation ordained me in 1997 as a Minister of Music. It was a gesture of affirmation about my work and the importance of music. Subsequently and consequently, I have been helping out with rites of passage and visitations.

I can only hope that you will be supportive of this long-time work that is important and spiritually oriented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. EdWard Thompson, Minister of Music