

June 16, 2021

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Vera Ellerson was born July 27, 1924 and passed away in St. Louis, MO on December 16, 2020. She became an Associate on July 23, 2000, signing with her contact person and friend, S. Marian Boberschmidt. When Vera celebrated her 15th anniversary as an Associate she wrote that being an Associate was one of the most beautiful experiences of her life.



The gatherings at Nia Kuumba, a Spirituality Center for African-American and African women in St. Louis, were especially enjoyable to her and she served the group by being on the Board. To Vera, the gatherings supported her desire to grow spiritually and was a welcoming, warm, and loving place.

Associate Theresa Bland remembers Vera as a woman of small stature and very soft spoken. "From her head to her toe, hair to her shoes she was a very classy lady, a sharp dresser and always stylish. She had a smooth talking voice and talked softly, so one had to listen closely to her." Theresa listened well to what she had to say as she was very wise, sharing a deep rooted wisdom. She was interesting and spoke often of the "old days." Theresa knew she would always learn something from her. Her faith was very strong and she always came to gatherings at Nia Kuumba with a willingness to help.

Ednadell Jackson and Gloria Green, also Associates, agreed that she was a very sweet woman who was friendly to everyone. Ednadell also gained much knowledge from her. She loved the Collaborative Conferences and Gloria still laughs about the time she and Vera got lost on the campus of the Motherhouse during a Conference!

Even though she lived quite a distance from Oldenburg, Vera participated in the mission of the Sisters through her service and support of Nia Kuumba as well as her hospitality to refugee groups over the years. We thank her for her generous Franciscan commitment. May she now rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Meyer