

# Candidating Week!

Meeting and Getting to Know  
Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa  
April 24 - May 1, 2022

We know you are curious about Rev. Maria Cristina and awaiting the chance to get acquainted! Candidating Week will run from April 24 to May 1, 2022. During this busy week there will be small-group, larger-group, and congregation-wide times to meet Rev. Maria Cristina.

You are encouraged to come to the events that you feel will allow you to get to know Rev. Maria Cristina, ask questions, and see them in the role of our next minister.

If you have questions or concerns about scheduling or meeting links, please reach out to [ESUC.Ministerial.Search.Committee@gmail.com](mailto:ESUC.Ministerial.Search.Committee@gmail.com)

## Sunday, April 24

*Theme: Getting Acquainted, Trust*

### 10:30 am Worship Service - Multiplatform

The excitement that is Candidating Week will begin with this centering hour of worship in person and on Zoom. **All are welcome!**

Via Zoom:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98931079078?pwd=cnpEbW90TE81VktiNVlXUXVYV0xidz09>
- Meeting ID: 989 3107 9078
- Passcode: chalice

### 12:30 – 1:30 pm Religious Education - Multiplatform

Children, adults involved in the Religious Education program, RE Committee members, parents, teachers, and mentors – are invited to join Rev. Maria Cristina (or as children may call her “Rev. MC”) in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom to talk about our thriving RE program and our hopes for the future.

Via Zoom:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727893079?pwd=ZGt5WE5oMEJqUFpDVFdFWWk2SVRMT09>
- Meeting ID: 837 2789 3079
- Passcode: RE

*Theme: Getting Acquainted, Trust*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- The Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “What do you hope for family ministry and ministry with youth? What do you hope for the next generation of Unitarian Universalists?” (5 minutes)

- ESUC group reflects on “How is family ministry celebrated here? What do you hope for the family ministry and ministry with youth? What do you hope for the next generation of Unitarian Universalists?” (20 minutes)
- ESUC RE group questions for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Monday, April 25

*Theme: Spiritual Life*

### 12:00 – 1:00 pm Worship Committee and Associates, Pastoral Care, Choir, ACE Media, CUUPs - Multiplatform

Rev. Maria Cristina meets with East Shore members of the Worship Committee and Associates, Pastoral Care, Choir, ACE Media, and CUUPs in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom to get to know each other and to talk about worship services and spiritual life at East Shore.

*Theme: Spiritual Life*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “How do you hope to introduce and deepen people in Unitarian Universalist faith?” (5 minutes)
- ESUC group reflects on “What do I need from Unitarian Universalism? What do I need from our UU congregational community?” (20 minutes)
- ESUC group questions for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

### 7:00 – 8:00 pm Congregation-wide Open Session, Q&A on Zoom

A chance to drop in to a Zoom session and chat, ask your questions, and get to know Rev. Maria Cristina. **All are welcome!**

Via Zoom:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89861463317?pwd=K2lGRDdDSm04Y3ZkcGhhTG9QSEZSdz09>
- Meeting ID: 898 6146 3317
- Passcode: OPEN

*Theme: Spiritual Life*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “How do you hope to introduce and deepen people in Unitarian Universalist faith?” (5 minutes)
- ESUC group reflects on “What do I need from Unitarian Universalism? What do I need from our UU congregational community?” (20 minutes)
- ESUC members post questions in the chat for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Tuesday, April 26

*Theme: Self Care*

This is a day of rest for Rev. Maria Cristina. There are no congregational meetings.

## Wednesday, April 27

*Theme: Congregation as Community*

### 12:00 - 1:00 pm Congregation-wide Open Session, Q&A on Zoom

A chance to drop in to a Zoom session and chat, ask your questions, and get to know Rev. Maria Cristina. **All are welcome!**

Via Zoom

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88487788428?pwd=ZS9Mc1ErUWNPTDJ4S2lzV1J6bzkrQT09>
- Meeting ID: 884 8778 8428
- Passcode: OPEN

*Theme: Congregation as Community*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “In what ways do you worry that a community can be too closed? How can we be inclusive in community in regards to identity and theology?” (5 minutes)
- ESUC group reflects on “How do we serve, support and strengthen our congregational community? What does it mean to lead well in today’s world?” (20 minutes)
- ESUC members post questions in the chat for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

### 6:00 – 7:00 pm Gathering of people with historically marginalized identities - Zoom

Rev. Maria Cristina joins in a gathering of people with historically marginalized identities from BIPOC and LGBTQ members on Zoom for a conversation about the East Shore congregation and our community.

*Theme: Congregation as Community*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “In what ways do you worry that a community can be too closed? How can we be inclusive in community in regards to identity and theology?” (5 minutes)
- ESUC group reflects on “How do we serve, support and strengthen our congregational community? What does it mean to lead well in today's world?” (20 minutes)
- ESUC group’s questions for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Thursday, April 28

*Theme: Foundations and Heritage*

## 12:00 – 2:30 pm Staff - In person

Rev. Maria Cristina meets the East Shore Staff, then individually with the SLT and Music Director

## 6:45 – 8:15 pm Board & Committee & Task Force Chairs - Multiplatform

Rev. Maria Cristina joins the Board & Committee & Task Force Chairs in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom for a conversation about the work going forward.

### *Theme: Foundations & Heritage*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “Name a source of pride you have for our faith. Name a hope you have. What do you wish UUism did better?” (5 minutes)
- Board and Committee Chairs reflect on “Name a source of pride you have for the congregation. Name a hope that you have. Name something you wish the congregation did better.” (20 minutes)
- Board sharing and/or questions for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Friday, April 29

### *Theme: The Wider Community*

## 7:00 – 8:00 pm Congregation-wide Open Session, Q&A on Zoom

A chance to drop in to a Zoom session and chat, ask your questions, and get to know Rev. Maria Cristina. **All are welcome!**

Via Zoom:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81007249887?pwd=SHVFeVJoTCtPcGRTNUxaUzJpOHo3Zz09>
- Meeting ID: 810 0724 9887
- Passcode: OPEN

### *Theme: The Wider Community*

- Introduction of Rev. Maria Cristina, procedures and chalice lighting (10 minutes)
- Rev. Maria Cristina reflects on “What connections to the wider community do you hope every congregation has? How do we balance between the individual, congregational and community needs?” (5 minutes)
- ESUC group reflects on “What is our relationship with the wider community? What does the wider community need from us? In what ways do we live in a “UU Bubble?”” (20 minutes)
- ESUC members post questions in the chat for Rev. Maria Cristina (20 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

## Saturday, April 30

### *Theme: Joy and Turning toward the future*

**12:00 – 2:00 pm Congregational Social Event – In person**

## **Sunday, May 1**

*Theme: Hope and Moving Forward*

### **10:30 am Worship Service - Multiplatform**

**All are welcome!**

Via Zoom:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98931079078?pwd=cnpEbW9OTE81VktiNVlxUXVYV0xidz09>
- Meeting ID: 989 3107 9078
- Passcode: chalice

## **After Service Vote Count and Announcement**

It is very important that all members understand what will happen after the vote is counted on Sunday, May 1 depending on the outcome.

If we vote to call Rev. Maria Cristina, they will have the opportunity to accept or decline that call. If Rev. Maria Cristina accepts, we have a new minister!

Ministers hope for a 95% vote of support from the congregation; the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages candidates to decline serving a congregation whose members provide less than a 90% affirmative vote; and East Shore's Bylaws require a minimum 90% approval of those voting. This is because a less than overwhelming supportive vote spells trouble for the future, and neither the minister nor the congregation will be well served by accepting.

Members will receive additional details about voting from the Board of Trustees in a notification letter. Parents will receive additional information about Religious Education on May 1 from our Director of Religious Education, Amanda Uluhan.

If the vote fails, or if Rev. Maria Cristina chooses not to accept the call, then the settled minister search process will end and East Shore will proceed forward without a settled minister for the time being. A search for a new interim minister will start.

After that, the current search committee will be disbanded, and during a new interim ministry a new search committee for a settled minister will eventually start the search process over from the beginning.

Your Ministerial Search Committee has spent the last year in a deep and diligent process of discernment, and it is our sincere hope that upon getting to know Rev. Maria Cristina, you will come to share our profound enthusiasm for the prospect of her ministry at East Shore Unitarian Church.