

Ministerial Search and Candidating Week

After nearly a year of discernment, your UUC Ministerial Search Team enthusiastically recommends the Reverend Jeremiah Kalendae, M. Div. be called as the next Senior Minister of University Unitarian Church! The team invites you to meet the Reverend Jeremiah Kalendae during Candidating Week: April 19–26, and then vote during the special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026, following a single 10 a.m. worship service.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Candidate and the Search Process

1. Can you tell me more about the Reverend Jeremiah Kalendae?

A: For the past seven years, Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae has been the lead minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Monica, responsible for worship, spiritual leadership, pastoral care, congregational programs, and social justice activism, guiding the community through a transformative period of developmental ministry. Rev. Jeremiah also serves in the greater Los Angeles area as Vice President of the Santa Monica Interfaith Council and as a member of the UCLA Medical Center's Ethics Committee. Rev. Jeremiah is a graduate of the Starr King School and has also been an adjunct faculty member there.

2. How did the ministerial search team arrive at the final candidate for our vote?

A: On June 15, 2025, the congregation charged the members of the Ministerial Search Team to: 1) listen to the priorities of the congregation, 2) prepare a UUC-specific Congregational Record for review by potential minister candidates, 3) review interested ministerial applicants, 4) discern the best-fit candidate for UUC at this

time, and 5) present the congregation with their selected candidate for Senior Minister at a special congregational meeting in April 2026 for a member vote to call. The term 'call' indicates that we are entering into a settled and shared ministry together of indefinite length, as UUC has done with its previous Senior Ministers. Once called, the expectation is that the new Senior Minister will begin their tenure at UUC in August 2026.

Candidating Week

3. What is (included in) Candidating Week?

A: Candidating Week is an opportunity for the congregation and the search team's recommended candidate to meet one another and begin to imagine ministry together in a variety of settings including worship and social events. See the [schedule of the week's events here](#).

4. Which events am I invited to attend during Candidating Week?

A: All members, families and friends are welcome to attend the worship services, congregational social/meeting events throughout the week, and the Friday potluck dinner. We request that you RSVP for events on the UUC Connect system to aid in our planning for seating, food, and drink. See the [schedule of the week's events here](#).

The Congregational Meeting

5. How do I vote to call the Reverend Jeremiah Kalendae as the next Senior Minister for University Unitarian Church?

A: On the morning of Sunday, April 26th, voting members of the church may obtain a ballot at the special table in Nathan Johnson Hall. During the Congregational Meeting, after a motion has been made, and there has been an opportunity for questions and

discussion, members will mark their ballots and cast them in the available ballot boxes in the chapel.

6. Are absentee ballots available?

A: Yes. If you are not able to attend the Meeting, you may vote by casting an absentee ballot during Candidating Week, using the special ballot box in the church office that week. Absentee ballots will be available in the church office beginning on Sunday, April 19.

7. Will there be other business at this Congregational Meeting?

A: No. Our bylaws call for a special, and likely brief, congregational meeting for the single purpose of voting to call a Senior Minister for University Unitarian Church.

8. When is the special Congregational Meeting?

A: The special meeting will immediately follow the single 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 26. We expect the meeting to begin at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Have additional questions? Contact [Morgan Sherwood](#) (in the church office) or any member of the [Ministerial Search Team](#).

We are so excited for you to meet the RJK, and we encourage you to participate in Candidating Week activities including the special Congregational Meeting on Sunday April 26, 2026!

~ Your UUC Ministerial Search Team