Maria feels called to get a master of divinity degree. She wants to study at EDS because she’s heard about the outstanding faculty and the progressive history and mission of the school. However, she lives over a thousand miles away, has a good job, and is deeply connected to her community. She learns about the EDS DL option, applies through the regular admissions process, and is admitted.

In June, Maria comes to the EDS campus to begin her first intensive, two-week session. Maria and the other Distributive Learning students become full members of the EDS community. They attend classes, meet with their professors, participate in worship, and plan their upcoming study. They share their individual experiences in ministry and engage in theological reflection.

In January, Maria and her fellow DL students return to Cambridge for another two-week residency. They reconnect face-to-face with classmates and faculty. As January session concludes, Maria returns home just in time for the online Spring session.

During the Spring session, Maria once again participates in classes from the comfort of her home. This session she is taking Introduction to the New Testament and Classical Anglican Theology.

In September, Maria begins the Fall session from home. She will take Early Christianity and Introduction to Liberation Theology by attending live classes that are happening in real time on campus. She also meets online once a month with her cohort group, which includes all of the other members of the DL class that began in June on campus, along with a faculty advisor and a senior DL student.

These illustrations were created by Ayelet Ronen and Maggie Ward of MADdraw Productions, and are based on a video that outlines the EDS DL learning option. You can watch the video at www.eds.edu/distributivelearningoption or on the EDS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/EpiscopalDivinitySchool.