

For Immediate Release: February 20, 2020

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS TO EQUIP MINISTRY LEADERS **JUDY HAGER ESTABLISHES ENDOWMENT FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE** **VST PARTNERS WITH UBC SAUDER SCHOOL FOR CERTIFICATE**

VANCOUVER, BC, February 20, 2020. Long-time Vancouver resident and community leader, Judy Hager has established the endowed **Bob & Judy Hager Scholarships for Leadership Excellence at VST** with a major gift. These scholarships are established in memory of Bob Hager, co-founder of Phillips, Hager and North, who was inducted into the 2013 Business Laureates of British Columbia Hall of Fame and in 2018, Bob was also inducted into the Investment Industry Hall of Fame. Nothing gave Bob and his wife Judy, more pleasure than helping students attain their academic potential.



(L-R) Leslie Carter (nee Hager), Judy Hager, Karen Tin (VST student in the program), and Richard Topping (VST Principal)

The “Hager Scholarships” will be awarded to VST students for the advancement of their education in administrative and financial management of congregation-based ministries in VST’s supporting denominations. This will be accomplished through the VST-UBC Sauder School Certificate in Leadership Excellence.

Leadership in the contemporary church and other ministry organizations is often complex and involves working with people, finances, facilities and communications. Addressing this need is an integral part of theological education at VST. The ability to engage in meaningful financial analysis, to make strategic decisions in the face of complexity and uncertainty, to raise funds and to build alliances for world engaging ministry are all crucial for thoughtful, engaged and generous leadership.

The partnership between UBC Sauder School of Business and VST helps graduates to be better prepared for ministry. Supported by the Hager Scholarships, each year a cohort of VST students take a series of courses at the **UBC Sauder School of Business**. These courses are in addition to their course work at Vancouver School of Theology. Courses include: *Financial Statement Analysis for the Non-Accountant*, *the Art of Adaptive Leadership*, *Strategic Decision Making* and *Coaching and Mentoring*.

Having supported this program and observed its results for the past two years, Judy Hager notes: “This program is an enormous help to students in the challenges that are a part of contemporary congregational leadership.”

Taking these courses, alongside students from the business community, expands the world of VST students and engages them with other leaders in Vancouver. Sauder has agreed to award a specially designed certificate for students that complete the program: **The Certificate in Leadership Excellence**. This certification is unique in the Canadian context for theological students.

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About VST

The Vancouver School of Theology's primary mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. Among theological schools in North America, VST is viewed as a change agent and an innovator for the church. As an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia, VST is now ranked 31st globally, placing it among the top 10% of all theological schools. VST is also in the top 10 of the most improved theological schools. VST was also recently recognized by *InTrust Magazine* as one of six theological schools making bold transformative moves to engage the radically changing academic environment. The Vancouver School of Theology welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions and Indigenous communities, while celebrating its core relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

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