

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2021

## **ANNOUNCEMENT – REV. GRANT RODGERS TO RETIRE**

VANCOUVER, BC, June 18, 2021

After 40 years of ministry as parish priest, university chaplain, spiritual director and most recently as Director of Anglican Formation at the Vancouver School of Theology, the Rev. Grant Rodgers is retiring at the end of December, 2021.

Grant has enjoyed every aspect of ministry, serving in a great variety of capacities. For the last six years Grant has happily offered his experience and knowledge of the Church and its faith at VST: mentoring students; teaching classes in Anglican history, liturgy, polity, ministry, etc.; overseeing community life and worship, and leading teaching retreats. Grant has been a valued member of the faculty of VST where he has contributed wisdom, kindness and a delightful sense of humour to our discussions about the future of the school.



The Anglican programme of formation and study at VST has been refined and expanded and now includes a diploma programme for those training for the diaconate. Grant has done excellent work engaging Anglican scholars and clergy from the West Coast and across Canada at VST in Anglican formation, worship and education. At VST students from Canada and all over the world are immersed in a programme that is deeply rooted in Anglican spirituality and practice. Anglican Studies at VST is open and relevant to a Church going forward with a renewed mandate in ministry and mission.

Grant has helped to lay the groundwork for an exciting new chapter in the Anglican Formation dimension of the Vancouver School of Theology.

President Topping says, “We will miss Grant’s insight and deep knowledge of Anglican Tradition in our meetings. He has been an excellent colleague and is much loved by our students. His diligence around open communication and his gift for deep listening have been crucial to the life of our school. We are grateful that he will be with us until the end of this calendar year while we initiate a search for a full time Director of Anglican Formation and Studies.”

### **About the Vancouver School of Theology**

VST’s core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. Among theological schools, 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 in the top 50 schools globally and in the top 10 of most improved theological schools. In 2020 VST was identified by In Trust Magazine as instituting bold transformative change for the renewal of theological education. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

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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, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and United Church of Canada. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments. The Vancouver School of Theology celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year as a leader in theological education.

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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