

For Immediate Release: January 28, 2022

VST APPOINTS NEW CHANCELLOR

VANCOUVER, BC. January 28, 2022. The Vancouver School of Theology is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Catherine Evans as its new Chancellor, effective February 1st, 2022. Ms. Evans will be officially welcomed into the Chancellor's role at VST's annual Convocation, scheduled for May 10, 2022.



Ms. Catherine Evans

Ms. Evans brings a wide range of experience in public service roles to her appointment. She was elected a Park Board Commissioner in Vancouver from 2014-2018; was chair of the Vancouver Public Library from 2011 to 2014, and has held a variety of policy and management roles in the governments of both British Columbia and Ontario.

Ms. Evans has contributed her skills and knowledge to the private sector as well - as a lawyer, a consultant, and as co-owner of Ethos Strategy Group - a communications and public relations firm based in Vancouver.

Ms. Evans received her bachelor's degree in political science from Dalhousie University, an M.Div. from Emmanuel College at the Toronto School of Theology, and an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School. She completed additional graduate studies in dispute resolution at the Harvard Program on Negotiation, and coursework in conflict resolution at the Justice Institute of BC. She is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Ms. Evans has a long history of voluntary board service including the BC Society of Landscape Architects, BC Society for Public Education, Vancouver Public Library and Library Foundation, Canadian Women Voter Congress, Westcoast LEAF, and Homes First Society among others. She attends Pacific Spirit United Church where she is an active member of the congregation.

I am delighted at the appointment of Ms. Catherine Evans as Chancellor of VST. Her record of public service, leadership experience, and her theological education will be splendid gifts to VST, where we prepare thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.

- Richard Topping, President & Vice-Chancellor

I believe the first job of a Chancellor is to be the voice of students in the administration of post-secondary institutions. I can't imagine a better person to fill this mandate than Catherine. Her career is one of progressive leadership and community service. I'm thrilled she has agreed to join us at this exciting time in the life of VST.

- Michael G. Francis, FCA, Chair of the Board

Catherine Evans succeeds Iain Black who served as VST Chancellor since 2018. Mr. Black is presently the CEO of Maximizer Software, and formerly served as President and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. Mr. Black was also elected twice into the BC provincial legislature as an MLA, serving in three different economic cabinet posts. His vast experience in the technology and new economy sectors also served VST very well in its rise as a nationally and internationally regarded theological school.

For Immediate Release: January 28, 2022

VST APPOINTS NEW CHANCELLOR

About VST

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. Most recently (2021), VST was the recipient of a prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grant from the Lilly Endowment to help redefine theological field education. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

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 (2021) 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.

Contact: Richard Topping

President & Vice-Chancellor Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition
Vancouver School of Theology
6015 Walter Gage Road, Vancouver, BC Canada, V6T 1Z1
richardt@vst.edu • 604-822-9808