

For Immediate Release: July 26, 2022

## VST ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF PROFESSOR JASON BYASSEE

**VANCOUVER, BC. July 26, 2022.** It is with regret and profound appreciation that we announce that Prof. Jason Byassee will complete his work as the first incumbent of the Butler Chair of Homiletics and Hermeneutics effective August 31, 2022. The Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee has held this position since 2015. He leaves VST to become the Senior Minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto beginning in September.

*“I’m so grateful for VST. Its faculty have taught me how to be a colleague. Its students have taught me how to be a teacher. Its worshiping life has brought me closer to God. I’m sad to have to advocate for it from afar, but I’ll never not advocate for it. What a wonderful place to study for ministry today.”*

Prof. Jason Byassee



We are so grateful to Jason for his commitment to engaging and thoughtful theological education. His liveliness and passion in the classroom, collegiality, wide interests in the church and the city, desire to form students for ministry and his love for the Church of Jesus Christ are exemplary. Graduates remark not only on the depth and insightfulness of his scholarship in the classroom but on his wisdom for the practice of ministry in our time. In his own words, “My primary vocation is to reinvigorate today’s church with the best of ancient and contemporary wisdom for creatively faithful living.”

During his time at the school, Jason has been prolific in research and publications, often coauthoring and editing with his colleagues and students. His investment in summer school has made this program flourish by providing students and friends of the school with world class learning opportunities. His good humour and interest in innovative programs made him a crucial member of the VST faculty. His investment in core partnerships for the school, including with Durham University, will be an ongoing benefit to VST.

*“What a joy it has been to work with Jason at VST. His love of the gospel animates his teaching, research and writing. It is all directed to the life and vitality of the Church and God’s good world. His openness to new possibility in the service of Jesus Christ is delightful and deeply encouraging. We will miss his remarkable presence at the school. We are grateful for all he has contributed. He leaves to take up work he has taught with passion and compassion. We wish him God’s blessing in it.”*

President Richard Topping

VST will initiate a search to find the next incumbent for the Butler Chair in Homiletics and Hermeneutics in the coming academic year. For this academic year, VST is engaging our first rate faculty and sessionals to pick up preaching and biblical interpretation courses.

### 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

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change for the renewal of theological education. Most recently, 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.

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