

For Immediate Release: May 25, 2023

2023 CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS CONFIRMED

VANCOUVER, BC. May 25, 2023. The **Vancouver School of Theology** has named **Rebecca Yeo** and **Keith Murray** as the 2023 recipients of the Chancellor's Scholarships. These scholarships are the most prestigious and generous awards offered to VST students each year.

Rebecca Yeo

Rebecca Yeo (they/them) has just finished their third year at Vancouver School of Theology, where they are pursuing both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Indigenous and Interreligious Studies. They are a candidate for ordination in the Anglican Church of Canada, discerning a call to priesthood and parish ministry. Currently, Rebecca lives on unceded **W̱SÁNEĆ** territory (the Saanich Peninsula) and is poet-in-residence at the AbbeyChurch in downtown Victoria. In their spare time, Rebecca plays tabletop roleplaying games, dabbles in voice-acting, and pets dogs.



I love learning at VST! I am honoured to have been selected as a Chancellor's Scholar in the community that has affirmed and challenged me as I discern my call to parish priesthood.

Keith Murray

Keith Murray (they/them) is an artist called to ministry, or a minister called to creativity. A descendant of settlers along the convergence of the Bow and Elbow River in Treaty 7, Keith has spent a life dedicated to community transformation at the confluence of spirituality, social justice, and the arts. Keith believes we were made in the image of the creator, created to co-create. Keith has worked across mediums in the visual and performing arts, engaging in societal healing through the imagination. Keith's creative projects have been recognized and exhibited internationally (including MoMA NYC, and Witte de With, NL), and they were the first artist-in-residence at Union Theological Seminary, NYC. An advocate, and spiritual care provider Keith specializes in supporting gender and sexually diverse, and marginalized communities across turtle island, and abroad.



Through an immersive study of our sacred traditions at VST, my conviction has crystalized, that it is the stories we tell which make the difference between heaven and hell on Earth.

About the Chancellor's Scholarships

Each year two Chancellor's scholarships of \$7,000.00 dollars will be awarded to students entering their final year of studies at Vancouver School of Theology, as an encouragement to fuller-time engagement in their studies. The award is intended to support the costs associated with the recipient's tuition and related personal investment in theological education.

To qualify to receive a Chancellor's Scholarship, the recipient needs to be: (1) a student who is in a degree program that aims at congregational ministry and who will be entering their final year of study in the fall; (2) a student with at least a B+ average in courses in which a grade is assigned and; (3) a student who shows promise for ministry, in the opinion of faculty and their relevant judiciary.

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The Chancellor's Scholars are celebrated at the annual VST Chancellor's Dinner scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at the UBC Golf and Country Club. This event provides support for VST Students and the Indigenous Studies Program at VST. The evening is hosted by VST Chancellor, Catherine Evans. In addition to honouring the Chancellor's Scholars, the evening will feature keynote speaker **Joanna Chiu**, an internationally recognized authority on China, award-winning journalist for the **Toronto Star** and author of *China Unbound*. Please contact VST for tickets at 604.822.6315 or jvanderpol@vst.edu.

About VST

VST's core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. VST is a leading theological school, viewed as a change agent and innovator for the church.

VST is an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia ranked in the top 100 schools globally and in the top 10 of most improved theological schools. VST has been recognized by *In Trust Magazine* for its realizing transformational change as it renews theological education. A recipient of a prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grant from the Lilly Endowment, VST is redefining the critical role of theological field education in preparing clergy. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

The Vancouver School of Theology celebrates its foundational relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and United Church of Canada. VST also welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions, and Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments.

The Vancouver School of Theology recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021. VST, through its predecessor schools, has been teaching theology in Vancouver since 1893.

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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