

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2024

2024 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES – MAY 7, 2024 CELEBRATING THE DISTINGUISHED CLASS OF 2024

VANCOUVER, BC. April 8, 2024. The Vancouver School of Theology is delighted to confirm that its 2024 Convocation Ceremonies will be conducted at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, May 7, beginning at 7 pm.

This year's Convocation Ceremonies will include nearly 30 graduates of VST's degree, certificate, and diploma programs. In addition to the graduates, various student award recipients will also be announced and celebrated.

Prof. Norman Wirzba will be giving this year's Convocation Address "Loving the World God Loves." Prof. Wirzba is Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology, Senior Fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and Director of Research for the Office of Climate and Sustainability at Duke Divinity school.



The 2024 Vancouver School of Theology Convocation Ceremonies will be presided over by Chancellor Catherine Evans and VST President and Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Richard R. Topping. Students and faculty will conduct the service and there will be special music provided by VST's Musician-in-Residence, Mr. Lonnie Delisle.

Mr. Michael Francis, VST's 2024 Honorary Doctor of Divinity recipient, will be presented with his honorary degree during the ceremony. The Rev. Andria Irwin, winner of the President's 2024 Thoughtful, Engaged, and Generous (TEG) Christian Leader Award, will also be acknowledged.



Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church is located at 2733 West 41st Avenue in Vancouver, BC. The proceedings will also be live-streamed at vst.edu/convocation. In addition to the platform party, friends, and family of the graduates, the public is most welcome to attend and celebrate this year's graduating class. A reception will follow immediately after the ceremonies.

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

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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.

Contact: Christopher Sanford Beck
Marketing and Communications Officer
Vancouver School of Theology
6015 Walter Gage Road, Vancouver, BC Canada, V6T 1Z1
csanfordbeck@vst.edu • 604-822-9427