

For Immediate Release: April 2, 2025

2025 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES – MAY 13, 2025 CELEBRATING THE DISTINGUISHED CLASS OF 2025

VANCOUVER, BC. April 2, 2025. The Vancouver School of Theology is delighted to confirm that its 2025 Convocation Ceremonies will be conducted at Christ Church Cathedral, May 13, beginning at 7 pm.

This year's Convocation Ceremonies will include over 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. The Convocation Address will be given by Rev. Dr. John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care, and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at King's College, University of Aberdeen.



L–R: Prof. John Swinton, Chancellor
Catherine Evans

The 2025 Vancouver School of Theology Convocation Ceremonies will be presided over by Chancellor Catherine Evans and VST President and Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Dr. Richard R. Topping. An update on the activities of the school and prospects for the future will be offered by the President. Students and faculty will conduct the service and there will be special music provided by VST's Musician-in-Residence, Mr. Lonnie Delisle.

Two Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees will be awarded—one to Mr. Philip Murray, Leader for Spiritual Health at Vancouver Coastal Health, and another to Mr. Bruce Curtis, Leader in human rights advocacy and restorative justice in the Comox Valley. The Rev. Amanda Ruston, winner of the President's 2025 Thoughtful, Engaged, and Generous (TEG) Christian Leader Award will also be acknowledged.



L–R: Mr. Phillip Murray, Mr. Bruce Curtis,
Rev. Amanda Ruston

Christ Church Cathedral is located at 690 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. Parking is available in the Park Place at 666 Burrard Street. Please see www.thecathedral.ca/programs/plan-your-visit for detailed parking information, including the discount code.

Convocation 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

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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 the 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 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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