

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2025

2025 CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS CONFIRMED

VANCOUVER, BC. July 29, 2024. The **Vancouver School of Theology** has named **Kate Keilty** and **Hannah Moderow** as the 2025 recipients of the Chancellor's Scholarships. These scholarships are the most prestigious and generous awards offered to VST students each year.

The **Chancellor's Scholars** are celebrated at the annual VST Chancellor's Dinner, scheduled for Thursday, September 25 at the UBC Golf Club. This event raises funds to support VST students through the Chancellor's Awards, Student Bursaries, and the Thoughtful, Engaged, & Generous Campaign for the Future. The evening is hosted by VST Chancellor, Catherine Evans. In addition to honouring the Chancellor's Scholars, the evening will feature keynote speaker **Benjamin Perrin**, UBC Allard School of Law professor and author of *Indictment: The Criminal Justice System on Trial* (UTP, 2023). He will give a talk entitled **Jesus, Justice & Mercy**. For tickets, please visit bit.ly/VSTCD2025, or contact Samuel Yun at (604) 822-6315 or syun@vst.edu.

The Chancellor's Scholarships are presented annually to two final-year students who show **exceptional promise for ministry** in the eyes of VST faculty and denominational leaders. Chancellor's Scholars are not only high-level students, but servant leaders prepared to commit their time and talent to service in Christ's church.

VST invited this year's Chancellor's Scholars to introduce themselves and say a word about their journeys thus far. It is VST's great pleasure to introduce Kate and Hannah.

Kate Keilty (United Church of Canada)

Kate entered the Master of Divinity program at Vancouver School of Theology as a distance student from Ontario in the heart of the pandemic. From previous studies including a degree in microbiology, she engaged in a short and unfulfilling career in analytical and research lab work, followed by a long and consuming career in pharmaceutical marketing, first as a medical writer, then later as a project manager and account director. During much of her time at VST, Kate worked in fundraising and donation management for a small non-profit food pantry. She nurtures a continuing interest in church history, and saw the publication of her first piece of theological-academic writing in 2024 with an article exploring the emergence of the British Methodist Episcopal church in Black settler communities of southwestern Ontario in the mid-nineteenth century. A Candidate for ordained ministry with The United Church of Canada, she is honoured to now be serving in team ministry at St. Paul's United Church in Sidney, BC, where she's learning how to cultivate faithful, sustainable church community in a post-Christendom world. Though Kate has adored her time at VST, loving every class and revelation along the way, the real joys of her life are her eternally patient spouse and three young-but-growing children.



Hannah Moderow (St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Anchorage, Alaska)

Hannah lives with her family in Anchorage, Alaska on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina People. She is a fiction writer by training, and a lover of storytelling across all genres. Prior to her studies at VST, she worked for nearly ten years at Make-A-Wish Foundation and published her first novel for kids, *Lily's Mountain* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), in 2017. One of the great joys of theological education has been immersing herself in Scripture—and learning how to bring sacred stories to life in congregational settings through preaching and liturgy. Hannah currently



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serves as a deacon at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Anchorage, Alaska, and is passionate about being a part of an inclusive and welcoming faith community. She loves intergenerational ministry—with a special fondness for the wisdom found among elders. In her spare time, Hannah can be found on the trails with her family—or driving her kids to school and activities while contemplating an upcoming sermon text.

About the Chancellor's Scholarships

Each year two Chancellor's Scholarships of \$7,000 are 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. These awards were approved by the Board.

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, United Church of Canada, and Presbyterian Church in 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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