

Vancouver School of Theology
Director of Anglican Denominational Formation and Studies

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accountable to: President of VST

Position Status: Full faculty member

Works closely with: Dean, Faculty, particularly the other Directors of Denominational Formation, the Director of Theological Field Education

Relates to: All Programs and Staff

Application Deadline: November 1, 2025

PREAMBLE

The successful candidate(s) for this position will be a member of the team of faculty and staff committed to theological education for ministry at Vancouver School of Theology. This is a full-time position. The initial appointment will be made for a three-year term. The appointment can be renewed for a further term or terms in accordance with the provisions of the VST Faculty Handbook. Compensation will be related to the experience and qualifications of the candidate (s). The terms of employment are those set out in the VST Faculty Handbook.

Thorough familiarity with the identity, polity, ethos and history of the Anglican Church of Canada is essential. A record of effective ordained ministry - demonstrated ability at congregational leadership, revitalization and growth - in the Anglican Church of Canada and experience and demonstrated skill in Anglican formation will be crucial. Expertise indicated by a publishing record and Ph.D. in a theological discipline such as liturgy, theology, history or ethics is desired.

The appointment is subject to the approval of the President, in consultation with Faculty Association, and the Board of VST.

SUMMARY

The successful candidate(s) for this position will become part of a team of faculty and staff committed to theological education for ministry at Vancouver School of Theology, where our calling is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders in collaboration with the Indigenous church, other faith traditions and the global church. As well as responsibility for formation of Anglican students, the responsibilities of this position include coordinating Anglican studies, worship and community life, teaching in the area of the candidate's expertise and providing liaison with and reporting to the respective Anglican judiciaries.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As Director of Anglican Denominational Formation and Studies, the person:

1. Ensures the development and implementation of plans for meeting denominational formation needs of Anglican students preparing for various ministries, including ordination. This will involve regular consultation with the Provincial House of Bishops and their designates;
2. Exercises and/or provides for appropriate pastoral care particularly, but not exclusively, for ACC students at VST. This work is done in conjunction with the VST Chaplain, faculty and other pastoral resource persons;
3. Establishes close communications with each student's diocese and bishop in order to provide appropriate information and guidance regarding the postulancy process expected of each student by their bishop;
4. Coordinates Anglican worship and community life, including the Daily Office, and provides community cohesiveness and sense of belonging for Anglican students;
5. Completes all reporting on student progress to the student's bishop, as required by those bishops;
6. Mentors and guides Anglican students through the candidacy process leading to ordination in the ACC, including supporting students through requirements such as discernment committees, ACPO, TFE assignments, Synod attendance and other diocesan commitments;
7. Supervises, evaluates and signs off on the Position Papers of Anglican students.
8. Will be asked to represent the School in denominational gatherings and works at the development of denominational relationships including new partnerships at the request of the President;
9. Monitors changes in denominational life, polity and resources;
10. Keeps the School apprised of these changes as they pertain to effective relationships and support for the formation of Anglican students;
11. Coordinates periodic visits of official guests and representatives of the ACC, particularly bishops from the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon to VST;
12. Participates in the discernment of appropriate field placements or internships for Anglican students, working in consultation with the Director of Theological Field Education and in consultation with the student's bishop;
13. Participates on faculty committees as appropriate, particularly on Faculty Council, Faculty Association, Admissions and the Pastoral and Public Leadership Committee;
14. Facilitates the educational program of candidates for admission from other denominations for the ministry of the ACC;
15. Participates in oversight of community worship in consultation with Faculty Council, sits on VST worship committee and provides guidance to students in their final year taking a turn at leading worship; and
16. Teaches two and a half courses per annum in the area of their experience and provides council for the engagement of sessional lecturers to cover required denominational courses.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Successful candidate will:

1. Have a Ph.D. in an area of Anglican studies (theology, liturgy, history, pastoral theology), a proven track record of publication and be committed to shaping his or her discipline through publishing as well as other academic and ecclesial contributions;
2. Possess skills and gifts of pastoral care appropriate to the position. In addition to experience in pastoral care, professional qualifications (CPE, Spiritual Direction, counselling in the areas of grief and conflict resolution) are desired;
3. Be an ordained person of the Anglican Church of Canada, or of an Anglican Church in full communion with the ACC, extensive experience exercising a ministry under the license of an Anglican bishop, a person of proven effectiveness in ministry, and in good standing with the Indigenous Anglican Church;
4. Have familiarity with and commitment to the mission and purpose of Vancouver School of Theology, the model of theological education of the School and the mandates and policies that guide and inform programs;
5. Show ability to take responsibility for coordinating and teaching in the denominational studies and faith formation aspects of the School's curriculum;
6. Have knowledge of and commitment to the Indigenous Anglican churches and the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
7. Be able to work creatively and effectively with colleagues and our constituencies; and
8. Work in an inter-religious and interdenominational context and experience doing so.

TO APPLY:

A complete application includes a cover letter, CV, and the names and contact details of three references, at least one of whom can speak to the applicant's teaching and academic background and one of whom can speak to the applicant's ecclesial experience. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed primarily to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Candidates should be ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada, or an Anglican Church in full communion with the ACC.

Applications may be e-mailed to rshi@vst.edu or sent via postal mail to Attention: President's Office, 6015 Walter Gage Road, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1. The application should be post-marked no later than November 1, 2025. Informal inquiries about the position may be made with The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping via email richardt@vst.edu or telephone 604-822-9808.

Vancouver School of Theology is committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons/persons of colour, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal people of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons and others who may contribute to further diversification in the pursuit of the school's vision and mission.