

For Immediate Release: December 9, 2025

THE REV. DR. L. GREGORY JONES TO GIVE 2026 G. PETER KAYE LECTURE

VANCOUVER, BC. December 9, 2025. The Vancouver School of Theology is delighted to confirm that **The Rev. Dr. L. Gregory Jones**, President of Belmont University and former Dean of Duke Divinity School as the keynote speaker for the 2025 G. Peter Kaye lecture and workshop on March 13 and 14. Both events will be hosted at VST's Epiphany Chapel on the UBC campus.

On Friday, March 14 at 7 PM, Dr. Jones will give a public lecture in-person and online titled **Re-Discovering Christianity's Surprise: Cultivating Social Innovation at the Heart of the Gospel**. The following day on Saturday, March 14 from 10 AM – 2 PM, he will lead an in-person workshop that expands on this theme entitled **Crazy People Who Have Hope: Practicing Social Innovation as a Renewal of Institutions and Communities**.

Jones' public lecture will explore how Christian witness becomes most compelling when it is rooted in social innovation. It examines the practices, convictions, and relationships that allowed early Christian communities to surprise the ancient world and carry the Gospel far beyond expected boundaries.

This **free** public lecture invites participants to explore how Christian social innovation has shaped transformative witness throughout history. By revisiting the practices and convictions that made the early church so surprising, the session opens space to imagine how these patterns might inspire renewed and meaningful Christian witness in the 21st century.

Abstracts for both the public lecture and the in-person workshop can be found at www.vst.edu/event/re-discovering-christianitys-surprise/.

Both the public lecture (free) and the workshop (\$10—includes lunch) require registration. Please register here: www.events.humanitix.com/re-discovering-christianitys-surprise.

The Rev. Dr. L. Gregory Jones is a theologian whose work centers on the nature of forgiveness, the significance of Christian ministry and pastoral leadership, and social innovation and entrepreneurship. He served as Duke's chief international strategist to advance and coordinate the university's global engagement. Between 1997 and 2010, and then between 2018 and 2021, Dr. Jones served as the dean of the Divinity School.



The author or editor of seventeen books, he has also published more than 200 articles and essays. A recent book is *Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness* (Abingdon Press, May 2016). He coauthored the book *Forgiving As We've Been Forgiven* with Celestin Musekura and another book with Kevin R. Armstrong, *Resurrecting Excellence: Shaping Faithful Christian Ministry*.

About the G. Peter Kaye Lecture series

The G. Peter Kaye Lecture series was established in 1987 by the Vancouver Foundation in honour of its well-respected former Board Chairperson Gilbert Peter Kaye. Peter Kaye led the Vancouver Foundation as its first full-time Executive Director from 1959 to 1977, and following his retirement

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he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors. During his tenure, the Vancouver Foundation became the largest charitable fund in Canada. Peter Kaye also served as VST's Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Governors until 1984.

For the past 38 years the G. Peter Kaye Lecture series has brought to campus "scholars of international reputation chosen for their ability to make a serious intellectual contribution to theological enquiry in a way that nourishes the spiritual life of the church and the wider community."

About VST

The Vancouver School of Theology is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world. This work is made possible through the dedication of caring, competent, and committed faculty and staff who bring VST's mission to life. A change agent and innovator for the church, VST is recognized internationally as a leading theological school and is an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia.

VST celebrates its foundational partnerships with the Anglican Church of Canada, the United Church of Canada, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and welcomes students from many Christian communions, the global church, and other faith traditions through the Inter-Religious Studies Program, as well as Indigenous communities. For 40 years, the Indigenous Studies Program has been integral to VST's mission, grounding its commitments in relationship and mutual respect.

VST is a two-time recipient of the prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grants from the Lilly Endowment; a first grant in redefining the critical role of Theological Field Education in preparing clergy, and a second grant supports excellence in congregational leadership. Central to its mandate, VST prepares ministers, priests, and pastors to lead flourishing congregations. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia and by the Association of Theological Schools.

VST traces its roots to predecessor schools, beginning with Columbian College, founded in 1893 in New Westminster. Formally established in 1971 through the amalgamation of Union and Anglican theological colleges, VST celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021 and continues this longstanding legacy of theological education in the region.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that it is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

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