

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2026

2026 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES – MAY 12, 2026 CELEBRATING THE DISTINGUISHED CLASS OF 2026

VANCOUVER, BC. April 17, 2026. The Vancouver School of Theology is delighted to confirm that its 2026 Convocation Ceremonies will be conducted at Shaughnessey Heights United Church, May 12, beginning at 7 pm.

This year's Convocation Ceremonies will include almost 50 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 Dr. David Janzen, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Durham University.



L–R: Prof. David Janzen, Chancellor Catherine Evans

The 2026 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 The Rev. Amanda Currie, Minister of Word and Sacrament at First Presbyterian Church in Regina, Saskatchewan, and another to Rev. Jamie Holtom, Lead Minister at North Brumlea United Church in Brampton, Ontario. The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli, winner of the President's 2026 Thoughtful, Engaged, and Generous (TEG) Christian Leader Award will also be acknowledged.



L–R: The Rev. Amanda Currie, Rev. Jamie Holtom, The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Shaughnessey Heights United Church is located at 1550 W 33rd Ave., Vancouver, BC. Street parking is available on W 33rd Avenue as well as along Connaught Drive.

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

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

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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 the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the *xwməθkwəyəm* (Musqueam) People.

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