

For Immediate Release: December 1st, 2020

## **PRESBYTERIAN DIRECTOR OF DENOMINATIONAL FORMATION CONFIRMED FOR THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

VANCOUVER, BC, December 1, 2020. At its most recent meeting of its Board of Directors, the **Vancouver School of Theology** has confirmed the appointment of the **Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation**, adding more depth, diversity and creativity to its outstanding team.

Principal Richard Topping said, “We are delighted at the strength that this new appointment brings to the school. Our commitment to our denominational partners, to vital congregations and thoughtful practitioners is signaled in the addition of these gifted, accomplished and experienced leaders. We anticipate renewed energy for the fulfillment of our calling. VST is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.”

Dean Ross Lockhart said, “Rev. Simpson brings a wealth of leadership gifts to the formation of future Presbyterian leaders through SAH & VST. She is an educator, mentor and recognized leader within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Rev. Simpson brings her experience of working with children, teenagers and adults in a variety of settings from camping ministries to congregations to indigenous communities. As Dean of St. Andrew’s Hall, I am thrilled to have such a talented and team-focused colleague as Rev. Rebecca Simpson at SAH, where we are equipping missional leaders for Christ’s Church of tomorrow, today.”

**Rev. Rebecca Simpson** will assume the role of **Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation** and Assistant Professor at the Vancouver School of Theology, also effective January 1, 2021.

Rebecca is a graduate of Simon Fraser University where she earned a Bachelor of Education with a focus on educational psychology and a major in biology. Her early teaching years were spent in secondary science labs in Maple Ridge, BC and an adult education program in Swan River, Manitoba. Rebecca continued her studies at Vancouver School of Theology and subsequently served as Camp Douglas Director for the Presbytery of Westminster. She is now the Minister of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Mission, BC, where she lives with her husband and three nearly grown children. With a wide variety of experiences within the Presbyterian Church in Canada, she is poised to share in the spiritual formation of future Ministers of Word and Sacraments. Rebecca is passionate about teaching and learning and looks forward to working with students at VST.



The Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation (DDF) is seconded from St. Andrew’s Hall, a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, to serve on the faculty of The Vancouver School of Theology. St. Andrew’s Hall exercises its provincial teaching charter through its vibrant partnership with The Vancouver School of Theology.

The Director of Denominational Formation is part of a team of staff and faculty at The Vancouver School of Theology called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for God’s world. Rebecca will be part of a Presbyterian team at St. Andrew’s Hall educating and equipping missional leaders for Christ’s Church of tomorrow, today. The responsibilities of this position include recruiting, mentoring, supporting and inspiring Presbyterian students with teaching,

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coordinating community life, worship, pastoral care and prayer support in cooperation with our SAH Chaplain, reporting to presbyteries and other Presbyterian Church in Canada bodies on student progress. Rebecca succeeds the Rev. Ross Lockhart in this role as he began his service as Dean of St. Andrew's Hall in July 2020.

**About VST**

VST's core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. Among theological schools, VST is viewed as a change agent and an innovator for the church. As an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia, VST is now ranked in the top 50 schools globally and in the top 10 of most improved theological schools. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and internationally by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

The Vancouver School of Theology welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions and Indigenous communities, while celebrating its core relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and United Church of Canada. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments. In 2021, the Vancouver School of Theology will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as a leader in theological education.

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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**About SAH**

SAH is called to discern and discover the future church that God is bringing and to prepare missional leaders to shepherd Christian communities into that flourishing. As a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, located on the University of British Columbia campus since 1955, SAH resources the Church across the country and around the world through the Centre for Missional Leadership. In a vibrant partnership with VST, SAH exercises its charter for theological education through a variety of degree programs. In addition to theological education, SAH also provides a transformative ministry of chaplaincy and hospitality through its residence on the UBC campus.

Ross Lockhart  
Dean  
St. Andrew's Hall