

THE BOARD OF ST. ANDREW'S HALL

To the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly:

St. Andrew's Hall is The Presbyterian Church in Canada college at the University of British Columbia and is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam) people. Established in 1955, St. Andrew's Hall exercises its provincial charter to grant degrees in theology through Vancouver School of Theology (VST) according to the 2005 agreement approved by the General Assembly. St. Andrew's Hall is governed by the Board of Management comprised of individuals appointed by the General Assembly, with two additional members from the Board of Governors at Vancouver School of Theology. The Board of Management utilizes a shared governance approach, with specific groups responsible for primary decision-making in clearly defined areas. Day-to-day operations of the hall are the responsibility of the dean who oversees the executive staff. The board functions primarily at the policy level to provide vision and oversight to management, assures that the terms of the college's agreements with other institutions are fulfilled and exercises legal fiduciary responsibility for the financial and real assets of the college. The current strategic framework guiding the work of the board includes the vision that "St. Andrew's Hall is called to discern and equip the future church that God is bringing" as well as the mission statement, "St. Andrew's Hall educates and equips missional leaders through teaching, hospitality and witness for Christ's church of tomorrow, today."

The programs and activities of St. Andrew's Hall are strongly aligned with the fourteen major goals articulated in the strategic vision of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

EQUIPPING FOR MISSION

Graduate Theological Education

The primary focus for St. Andrew's Hall is to educate and form Christian leaders for the church and world. For those certified candidates in The Presbyterian Church in Canada seeking formal theological degrees in their equipping for mission, St. Andrew's Hall works with Vancouver School of Theology providing financial support and the secondment of three St. Andrew's Hall professors to the faculty at VST. With an impressive and robust commitment to hybrid, distance education for over a decade, Presbyterians from across Canada and indeed around the world, now study at Vancouver School of Theology. The 2005 agreement approved by the General Assembly defines the relationship between St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with St. Andrew's Hall acting on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as its "sole agent".

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is well represented at Vancouver School of Theology through the seconded faculty of St. Andrew's Hall. The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, serves as Professor of Mission Studies and teaches in the area of practical theology. The Rev. Rebecca Simpson serves as Director of Presbyterian Formation and brings her experience as a congregational minister and camp director to focus on her work of equipping leaders for church and para-church ministries. The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, President of Vancouver School of Theology, is the St. Andrew's Hall Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition, teaching courses in theology at the basic and advanced degree levels. St. Andrew's Hall strongly supports the vision of Vancouver School of Theology as an institution that is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders. St. Andrew's Hall is grateful to VST for its ongoing contribution in the formation of Presbyterian leaders and the commitment to equipping Christians for today's post-Christendom context in Canada.

Certified candidates preparing for ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada enroll in the Master of Divinity program at Vancouver School of Theology and receive financial and pastoral support from St. Andrew's Hall throughout their studies. Certified candidates may also enroll in the joint VST/Regent College program that has students completing a M.Div. at Regent College while taking specified courses from Presbyterian faculty members at VST and earning the Diploma in Presbyterian Studies. Other students transferring into The Presbyterian Church in Canada may qualify for ordination by taking courses stipulated by the Education and Reception Committee through Vancouver School of Theology, under the direction of Professor Simpson as Director of Presbyterian Formation.

This year, St. Andrew's Hall is pleased to report there are 39 Presbyterian Church in Canada students enrolled at VST, from provinces such as Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Our students from our denomination also represent the beautiful diversity of global Christianity calling Canada home now with backgrounds from India, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, as well as various parts of Africa and the Caribbean. St. Andrew's Hall is working hard to enrich the experience of those preparing for ordained ministry in The

Presbyterian Church in Canada at VST, with generous scholarships and bursaries for Presbyterian students, including housing bursaries for certified candidates, as well as attending to spiritual life outside the classroom through weekly worship and student retreats at nearby Camp Douglas. In addition to our own Presbyterian Church in Canada students, many international Reformed students studying at VST find a warm welcome in our worship and fellowship events throughout the year.

In addition, it was delightful co-sponsoring the first “Cork Lecture” with Vancouver School of Theology in August 2023, featuring Dr. Andrew Root as our theme speaker. Dr. Root shared both a public lecture and a full day workshop with church leaders reflecting on his many publications exploring Christian witness in a secular age.

CENTRE FOR MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP

In addition to graduate theological degree programs at VST, St. Andrew's Hall also engages its primary mission to educate and form Christian leaders for the church and world through the Centre for Missional Leadership. The Centre for Missional Leadership (CML) is a significant ministry of St. Andrew's Hall to the wider church. CML was established by the Board of St. Andrew's Hall in 2015 to equip Christian leaders (including teaching and ruling elders) and congregations for effective witness in a post-Christendom Canadian context. The CML team consists of the Rev. Albert Chu, Director; the Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau, Associate for Programs; the Rev. Dr. Darrell Guder, Senior Fellow in Residence; the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean; Ms. Amanda Mina in Communications and Ms. Andrea Perrett, Associate for New Witnessing Communities. Together, the Centre for Missional Leadership team is equipping leaders to aid in the flourishing of Christian communities faithfully witnessing to God's mission in the world.

The Centre for Missional Leadership continues to equip local church leaders across Canada through a variety of programs. The Missional Certificate program helps congregations engage with the changing nature of Christian witness in a secular and pluralistic Canada, while offering the opportunity to develop and implement experiments of witness in their local neighbourhood. In September 2024, this program will welcome a new cohort of congregations, with the program focusing even more intently on congregations without clergy, mindful of this growing reality within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

CML takes seriously the need for St. Andrew's Hall to resource our churches today and continues to offer the Sacrament Elders course twice a year, equipping ruling elders in The Presbyterian Church in Canada congregations across the country without clergy to offer the sacraments to their church members. CML co-sponsored many events this year attending to the needs of our congregations including a Clergy Retreat at Crieff Hills, an event with New Leaf exploring “Plausible Futures for the Canadian Church”, as well as a major conference with City Gate Forum entitled, “Reimagining Church, Land and Community”.

CML continues to recognize the importance of developing missional experiments through church planting and to that end our Cultivate network hosted Imagination Day retreats for church planters and two church planting cohorts throughout the year. In addition, CML is planning a major conference entitled “Rhythms and Rituals: Christian formation on the edges of western culture,” May 2–4, 2024 at St. Andrew's Hall. The keynote speaker is Dr. Stefan Paas, J.H. Bavinck Chair for Missiology and Intercultural Theology at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.

CML hosts an annual Guder Scholars program in the first week of August, named in honour of our Senior Fellow Darrell Guder. Participants selected are in their first fifteen years of ordained ministry and come to Vancouver for an intense, residential learning environment at St. Andrew's Hall with their peers and the CML team. This year the theme is “Missional Leadership and Preaching”, led by our guest instructor Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee.

CML provides the “Pastor-in-Residence” program, by selecting a Presbyterian Church in Canada minister to enjoy a time of rest and study at St. Andrew's Hall, as well as bless our students by preaching in chapel and sharing insights on their experience of ministerial leadership. This year we were pleased to host The Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock from St. Andrew's Church in Ottawa as our Pastor-in-Residence.

CML also resources the church through important and timely publications on missional leadership in the Canadian context. Since its founding in 2015, CML team members have produced six monographs with the latest being *Christianity: An Asian Religion in Vancouver*, an ethnographic study exploring the changing face of Christianity through immigration, including interviews with Asian Christian laypeople (many of whom are Presbyterian) as a hopeful sign of God's activity in our midst. The CML team is grateful to God for the impact that our people, programs and publications are having on congregations across Canada. We are keen to further equip congregations and welcome guest preaching and teaching opportunities from across The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

QUALITY ACCOMMODATIONS, CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY AND WITNESS

St. Andrew's Hall operates a residential facility for over two hundred students studying full-time at the University of British Columbia or at one of its associated theological colleges. During the summer season, rooms are available on a short-term basis to all people. Not only is the residence a vital source of revenue to St. Andrew's Hall but it also serves as an important venue for Christian witness and worship in the midst of the international, multi-faith (and secular), youthful population that lives and works in the university neighbourhood.

Our ministry of hospitality and witness is made possible by the efforts of a dedicated team. Our Dean The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart serves as administrative head of the hall, including the residence. He is ably supported by the executive team of Ms. Mavis Ho (Dean's Executive Assistant), the Rev. Albert Chu (CML Director), the Rev. Sumarme Goble (Chaplain) and Ms. Mihye Park (Housing Manager). In addition, there are two other executive staff positions that have changed personnel since the last General Assembly. Our Facilities Manager, Mr. Christopher Orr moved out of the Lower Mainland after many years of service and Mr. Adrian Kiss was hired in his place, bringing a wealth of experience to the role from property management at Camp Douglas, as well as hardware store management on the Sunshine Coast. In addition, after two decades at St. Andrew's Hall, Ms. Valerie Kerekes announced her retirement as Finance Manager to take place no later than the end of 2024. A search is now underway for a new Finance Manager. We are grateful for Valerie Kerekes and Christopher Orr's long and distinguished service at St. Andrew's Hall. The executive team is assisted by Ms. Shiraz Dhillon in the housing office, Ms. Amy Lin in bookkeeping and Mr. Sam Simpson in facilities. Ms. Silva Kraal, Ms. Yanfen An and Ms. Hannah Forsythe serve as our three community coordinators, living on site at St. Andrew's Hall and caring for our residents.

Weekly hybrid worship services in the Reformed tradition are held in the St. Andrew's Hall chapel throughout the academic year using our smartboard technology that enables distance students to participate and for guest speakers to join us across the country. The chapel is also home to a Korean language worship gathering for University of British Columbia students on Thursday evenings. A campus wide Alcoholics Anonymous group also meets in the chapel on weekends. In addition, special events are held throughout the year to foster community among our residents, to celebrate major Christian holidays and to share the gospel through small group discussions and Bible studies led by our chaplain The Rev. Sumarme Goble. She also represents The Presbyterian Church in Canada in the UBC multi-faith chaplaincy network. St. Andrew's Hall believes a Presbyterian residence on one of Canada's major universities, home to a diverse and international student body, is an essential ministry for advancing the gospel. For the over two hundred souls who live at St. Andrew's Hall, from undergraduates in quad rooms to singles and couples in studio and one-bedroom apartments to families with newborns, children and teenagers in our townhomes, the Christian community of St. Andrew's Hall is a powerful and transforming witness to the larger university community. We continue to invest in our facilities and this ministry of hospitality and witness, upgrading bathrooms and adding an additional shower in each of the 12 quad units last summer. The project was completed on time and under budget.

FINANCES

The Board of St. Andrew's Hall is grateful for the resources God has entrusted to us to prepare leaders for a church that serves the world God loves, including an annual grant from Presbyterians Sharing that represents less than 3% of our annual budget. Financial support of over \$500,000 a year is provided by St. Andrew's Hall for The Presbyterian Church in Canada's participation at Vancouver School of Theology through student bursaries, scholarships, and a grant to VST's operating budget. To that end, we are grateful for both generous Presbyterian donors to St. Andrew's Hall, prudent management of our revenues, as well as the faithful stewardship of our investments that together help make a thriving, impactful Presbyterian presence possible on the University of British Columbia campus.

Financial statements of the college are independently audited on an annual basis. The board is committed to utilizing our resources to enhance the sustainability and impact of our educational mission by ensuring the preservation of capital assets through strategic investments in program growth.

Together with Knox College and Presbyterian College, St. Andrew's Hall gives thanks for the life and legacy of Dr. Donald McLean (1926–2022) and his wife Mrs. Joyce McLean (1927–2018). Donald and Joyce attended Fairview Church, Vancouver for many years, and Donald served as an elder in that congregation. He served as a Professor of Medical Microbiology at UBC and Joyce was a nurse for many years at the Vancouver Children's Hospital. Together they were committed to the support of theological education and, in 2023, each of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada received a significant bequest from the estate of Dr. McLean. The colleges give thanks for Dr. and Mrs. McLean's generosity and for their lifelong devotion to Jesus Christ.

GOVERNANCE

St. Andrew's Hall is blessed with a board of dedicated, diverse and gifted leaders who guide the ministry of the hall. This year, the board especially thanks Mr. Matthew Walton-Knight who is completing his second term of service at this Assembly. St. Andrew's Hall includes governance as one of the four strategic directions in its 2025 plan and this includes an emphasis on board education, new member orientation, board self-evaluation, committee work plans, revised skills matrix for nominations, as well as best practices for board governance. We are deeply grateful for what God is doing in our midst at St. Andrew's Hall and remain committed to equipping leaders and congregations in The Presbyterian Church in Canada for mission in the name of the risen Lord Jesus.

Gwen Brown
Convener

Ross A. Lockhart
Dean