



Life and Mission Agency: Agence Vie et Mission

September 26, 2025

Friends and colleagues,

I want to commend Dr. Wesley Buch's research study on mental health among clergy in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and encourage you to participate. Dr. Buch has already completed a similar survey and study on "depression prevalence rates and risk factors in ministry personnel" among clergy in the United Church of Canada. I believe Dr. Buch's work will make a significant contribution to our understanding of clergy mental health and wellness in our denomination, and overall, of clergy serving in the Canadian context.

Dr. Buch is a former ordained minister in two Vancouver Protestant churches. He is married with two grown children. He has also enjoyed a longstanding career in clinical and rehabilitation psychology (Ph.D., University of B.C.) and continues to practice as a registered psychologist in the Vancouver Lower Mainland. In 1997 he co-founded Behavioural Health Care where his focus has been on psycholegal assessments, treatment, and consultation for individuals with complex forms of suffering, especially chronic pain. He has had a longstanding interest in the pastoral care of clergy and more recently founded Clergy Health Care. In 2024 he received his D.Min. from Knox College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Schner and the late Dr. Andrew Irvine. His thesis constituted the first survey (UCC clergy) of several associated with his Canadian Clergy Depression Project. He now splits his time between patient care, community mental health through a local charity, presentations, and his research on clergy care.

I anticipate meaningful results from the study and hope that you would be willing to contribute to those results.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Tim Purvis
Associate Secretary, Ministry and Church Vocations
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, Ontario
1-800-619-7301 / 416-441-1111 (ext. 264)
tpurvis@presbyterian.ca