



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

September 2025

Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to commend Dr. Wes Buch's Doctor of Ministry research study and to warmly encourage you to participate. I believe this is an excellent opportunity for us to better understand ourselves and the pressures that weigh on those in ministry.

I have known Dr. Buch for some time and deeply respect both his professional expertise and his personal commitment to the well-being of ministry personnel. A registered psychologist (PhD, UBC) with decades of experience in clinical and rehabilitation psychology, he is also a former ordained minister who brings valuable insight into the challenges of serving in ministry.

In 1997, he co-founded Behavioural Health Care, focusing on psycholegal assessments, treatment, and consultation for individuals experiencing complex forms of suffering, especially chronic pain. Over the years, he has also served on the Board of Directors of Pain BC, contributed to the development of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation, supported the creation of a chronic pain curriculum for healthcare professionals, and consulted on the development of three planned integrated health clinics in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Dr. Buch is a committed Anglo-Catholic lay leader at St. James Anglican and previously served in United Church ministries. His D.Min. (2024, Knox College, Toronto School of Theology) examined the prevalence rates and risk factors of depression among ministry personnel, producing the first survey of its kind among UCC clergy and informing his ongoing Canadian Clergy Depression Project.

I believe the church is fortunate to have Dr. Buch's combination of research skill, theological insight, and deep care for clergy. I expect that this study will yield meaningful results, and I hope you will consider contributing to its success by participating.

Yours sincerely,

The Most Revd John R. Stephens
Archbishop of New Westminster
Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC & Yukon

