



National Association of Pastoral Musicians

May 14, 2021

Last summer we became aware of the mounting sexual abuse allegations against David Haas, spanning over thirty years of trauma. We, as the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, pledged “to do whatever was within our power to assist these women in their healing process and work diligently to ensure that our events represent a safe space for all present, and that no predator, of whatever stature, will find in our gatherings an opportunity to harm another.”

We have not forgotten our promise. Since last summer here are some of the steps we have taken to make our events and community a safer space for all present:

- We now require that all speakers for any NPM-sponsored event submit a Letter of Good Standing from their Diocese as well as a certificate of completion for VIRTUS training (or equivalent training). All 2021 speakers complied without question.
- We created a Code of Ethical Behavior that is published on the NPM website and is published annually in *Pastoral Music Magazine*.
- All attendees to the 2021 Convention (scheduled to take place in New Orleans, Louisiana) must read a Code of Programming Conduct and must agree to said Code of Programming Conduct in order to register.
- We have taken meetings with Into Account, the non-profit organization dedicated to supporting survivors and advocating for the allegations made against David Haas. We are working with Into Account to provide opportunities to learn about identifying and reporting abuse among us. These opportunities will be available for 2021 National Convention attendees and all NPM members as a whole.

While these steps are progress, we know that there are countless victims of various abuse and trauma among us. Our journey to eradicate the evil among us and support all who are victims of any abuse is a long journey ahead. In July of last year we called on one another to “walk in the footsteps of Christ— healing wounds, righting relationships, and speaking for those whose voices have been silenced for too long.” The call is still as necessary as it was last summer, and we will continue to walk alongside those who have been abused, affected and silenced for too long.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jennifer C. Kluge'.

Jennifer C. Kluge
Executive Director, National Association of Pastoral Musicians