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Statement of Solidarity of Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse

Following the credible allegations of misconduct discussed below, the Staff at United has agreed to no longer use the hymns of David Haas and Cesareo Gabaráin. Our congregation's commitment to love and justice and the building of a more just and equitable world precludes us from using music by these writers. We stand united in support and protection of victim-survivors who may be further traumatized by the experience of this music.

Background: In late May 2020, it was reported that liturgical composer David Haas was accused of sexual misconduct. Since then, Catholic news sources reported that allegations have come from 44 women regarding abusive sexual conduct from 1979 to 2019.

While the lyrics to the Haas hymns, *You Are Mine*, *We Are Called* and *Blest Are*, have played an inspirational role in our lives and worship, the words to these songs were also used to seduce his victims. He not only physically and emotionally abused these women, he crushed them spiritually, as well.

The advocacy group *Into Account's* Oct 1, 2020 report, details instances of spiritual abuse connected to Haas's music: "By using sacred music as a medium for grooming and abusing girls and women, what Haas made manifest through his sacred music was often traumatic, misogynist violence, disguised as the inbreaking of the kingdom of God."

GIA Publications made a public statement condemning his acts and terminated its sponsorship and publishing relationship with Haas, stating that they support and stand with victims, and that we must join together to address and prevent sexual abuse. Oregon Catholic Press suspended ties with him. No criminal or civil complaints have been filed, however, approximately one third of the 32 American Catholic archdioceses say they have stopped using Mr. Haas's music. These acts not only condemn Haas's behavior but also prevent him from benefiting financially from his music through sales and residuals.

In 2024, we were made aware that credible allegations of abuse had emerged against Cesáreo Gabaráin and made the decision to stop singing hymns for which he composed and wrote lyrics. These hymns include *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* and *Sheaves of Summer*.

Allegations against Gabaráin were made public in 2021 when The Marist Congregation in Spain reported that they received credible complaints against Cesareo Gabarian. The abuse was alleged to have occurred in the 1970s, during the 12 years he served as a chaplain at the Marist School of Chamberi and was confirmed in August 2021. While the Archdiocese of Madrid reported that investigations into the claims yielded no substantive evidence and were closed, the Marist Congregation did not deny the credible accusations reported by the victims.