



GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK

802 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10003 (212) 254 - 2000

December 16, 2020

Dear Grace Church Community,

Two months ago we wrote to [update](#) you concerning the Church's response to allegations of sexual abuse on the Grace Church and School campus. We noted that four of our former choristers reported that Bruce McInnes, a choirmaster in the 1990s, abused them during and after their time in the choir. As of the date of that letter, three of those choristers, who were also students at Grace Church School, had filed legal complaints. Since writing, the fourth has also filed a legal complaint against the Church, the School, the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and McInnes. In the filing, he alleges that he was abused and assaulted while a member of the Grace Church boys' choir and a student at GCS.

We recognize the significant courage required of survivors of abuse to revisit painful and traumatic experiences, and we are grateful to those who have spoken up and given us the opportunity to address the harm caused by McInnes's abuse. We will continue to respond to the legal complaints in a manner consistent with our Christian values and the care we want to express for all who come through our doors.

While the reported conduct in each of the four complaints occurred more than 20 years ago, these complaints have been filed under the Child Victims Act (Senate Bill 2440). This law was enacted by New York State in February 2019 to create a look-back window for victims of child sexual abuse to file claims for cases where the statute of limitations had already expired, regardless of when the alleged abuse occurred. Owing to pandemic-related court delays, the look-back window for the statute of limitations has been extended to August 14, 2021.

The Vestry remains steadfast in its commitment to gain a full understanding of the facts and to address forthrightly McInnes's sexual abuse and misconduct. In partnership with the School Trustees, we have instructed attorneys from Cozen O'Connor to continue investigating McInnes' tenure on campus. We ask anyone with information pertaining to child abuse or sexual misconduct at the Church or School to contact Leslie Gomez at Cozen O'Connor (lgomez@cozen.com or 215-665-5546), Don Waring (dwarding@gracechurchnyc.org) or local law enforcement or [child protective services](#).

The values of Grace Church and School demand a thorough accounting of the facts and a reckoning with the truth. We take seriously our moral obligation to protect the children entrusted to our care, and we will continue to respond with urgent concern for their wellbeing – past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Owen R. Boger
Warden of Grace Church