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National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Announces Name Change to National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (NACCM)

October 6, 2026 – The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) today announced an official name change to the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (NACCM). This rebranding reflects a renewed focus on the organization's Catholic heritage and mission while continuing its long-standing tradition of supporting sacred music ministers across all backgrounds.

Executive Director Jennifer Kluge shares, “Our new name, the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (NACCM), directly reflects our Catholic identity and honors our Catholic foundation, including our status as an integrated auxiliary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). NACCM will increase our visibility and reach to truly be the place for all who serve the Church through music.”

Since 1976 the organization has served as a professional networking and continuing education association for musical leaders, choir directors, organists, cantors, and parish musicians. The adoption of the new name clarifies the association's core alignment with the Catholic Church in the United States and strengthens its commitment to fostering high-quality liturgical music.

“Our mission has always been grounded in supporting those who enrich liturgical worship through music,” says Meyer Chambers, Chair of the NACCM Board of Directors “Embracing our new name, ‘National Association of Catholic Church Musicians,’ firmly roots us in our Catholic tradition while expanding our pastoral mission to support, educate, and inspire every musician called to serve in church ministry.”

Beginning with conversations during the National Council meeting at the 2024 National Convention, leadership has been exploring a name change with the Board, National Council, and stakeholders. The association's membership was given a poll and multiple Town Hall Zoom sessions to voice their thoughts about the possibility of the change throughout Spring 2026. During the 2026 Members' Meeting at the Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.), Executive Director Jennifer Kluge announced that the organization would move forward with the name change.

Under the new name, the organization will maintain all existing programs, educational resources, certifications, national conventions, and regional trainings. While the name change will take effect immediately, all official communications and publication materials will incorporate the prior name for six months. Local chapters will be provided supplementary branding, banking, and business materials for the transition as well.

About the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (NACCM)

The National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (NACCM), formerly the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), is an association of musicians, clergy, and liturgists dedicated to fostering the art of musical liturgy. NACCM serves its members through education, publication, diocesan chapters, and national gatherings, providing formation and community for all who serve the Church through music.