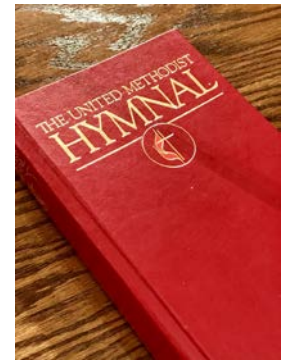


Copyright Laws and What YOU Need to Know!

A message from the DS, Rev. Ed Fashbaugh

I have been tremendously blessed as I have watched, listened and worshiped with those of you who are livestreaming your service, or recording it for later posting on Facebook or Youtube. Your efforts, and the efforts of the laity involved, are Outstanding! Thank you for stepping up to these challenging times with such effort and creativity.



Even as we continue to learn how to improve our presentations by adjusting lighting, sound and delivery; we also need to ensure we following copyright laws. ***A number of presentations this past week included music that was copyrighted.*** I know that this was not intentional as we are all learning so much about what it means to go digital; however, we need to ensure that as we present the Gospel we keep the highest level of integrity in those presentations.

This means ensuring all the elements we use in our worship (music, scripture and liturgy) are in-line with copyright laws. I know that during these weeks we are getting information overload, but this is truly something we cannot afford to overlook as fines can be steep for every instance of copyright infringement.

Below are resources that would be good to familiarize yourself with as you prepare Easter worship for your congregations.

1. Just about everything you need to know can be found on UMC Discipleship website for [Online Worship & Music Resources for Livestreaming](#).
2. This second website with UMC Resource explains how to tell if a hymn in the United Methodist hymnal is in public domain or copyrighted. It is a GREAT resource that every worship leader, pastor and church musician needs to read. [Click here](#)
3. [This link from Discipleship Resources](#) provides a list of piano accompaniment hymns that are all in the public domain and can be used for worship. It is an an easy "go to" resource to use for online worship planning.
4. The following reveals information about use of materials from the UM Book of Worship. It reports that the United Methodist Publishing House has granted temporary permission to use the sections from the BOW for livestreaming including rituals for funerals and weddings until August 30, 2020. [Click here for details](#).
5. Finally, ensure your Bible version can be used in live or recorded worship. The NRSV and RSV have temporarily suspended copyright in order for those versions to be used during COVID19 crisis. To verify your copy, run simple google searches (e.g., is The Message Bible version in public domain?).

If you follow the guidelines and procedures found in the links above you will be able to know that you have planned worship with the highest level of integrity. If you have questions about any of this please call or email us or the EOC Communications office.