Musicians, Artists and Writers have been blessed with special creative gifts on which they depend for their livelihood.

As good stewards of the gospel and community of faith, we respect those persons and their gifts by acknowledging their contributions.

What is copyright?

Copyright is the protection provided by the laws of our United States government for original works of authorship. It includes literary, dramatic, musical, pantomimic, pictorial, graphic, sculptural and audiovisual creations.

Copyright law applies to all church related organizations.

IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION & GUIDELINES for the Local Church

October 2019
**Information and Guidelines about Copyright**

**MUSIC**

It is illegal to copy words from a hymn or song for a song booklet without a license.

It is illegal to copy words from a hymn or song for an overhead projector without a license.

It is illegal to record copyrighted music during a religious service without permission. (See section on audio)

*The United Methodist Hymnal states,* “United Methodist congregations may reproduce for worship and educational purposes any single item from the hymnal for one-time use, as in a bulletin, special program, or lesson resource, provided the item bears a United Methodist Publishing House or Abingdon Press copyright notice; that the copyright notice as shown on the page is included on the reproduction; and The United Methodist Hymnal is acknowledged as the source. (See page 906 of the United Methodist Hymnal)*

In order to copy music for church use, churches may purchase a license from CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc.) Churches may also obtain permission for use of individual copyrighted pieces from producers.

For more information and/or membership, call 1-800-234-2446 or www.ccli.com.

**DVD/VIDEO**

DVDs that are rented from your local video store or Netflix, etc. are for home use only. They may not be shown in public settings without permission. This includes educational settings such as small groups, Sunday school classes, youth meetings, etc. Many DVDs produced for church use have public performance rights.

You may obtain a CVLI (Christian Video Licensing International) license at www.cvli.org or by calling 1-888-771-2854.

**CD RECORDINGS**

CDs may be copied of a worship service and distributed if they do not include a performance of copyrighted music (unless a CCLI license has been purchased) or other copyrighted material such as a drama or dramatic reading. **You must turn off your recording machine while copyrighted music and/or dramatic readings are being performed if you do not have permission.** If the service includes any copyrighted material, writ-ten permission must be obtained from the publisher before recording.

**VIDEO RECORDINGS**

Video recordings of worship that include a performance of copyrighted music or other copyrighted material such as a drama or dramatic reading come under the same restrictions as CD recordings. All permission for the video recording of such performances must be obtained before video recording.

**CURRICULUM & BOOKS**

Curriculum and books are protected by copyright laws. No curriculum, whole, or in part, or pages from books should be copied without permission from the author or publisher. Some curriculum pieces give permission to copy “reproducible” sheets.

**SCRIPTURE**

Most Bibles allow the copying and quoting of scripture. The King James version, published in 1611, is in the public domain and may be quoted extensively. However, the Revised Standard Version as well as all other new versions are not in the public domain and are, therefore, copyrighted. Permission to quote or copy Scripture from these translations is usually located in the front of the Bible. Following the guidelines that are given in these translations, you will find information on how to quote or display Scripture from any Bible version to use in a worship service. This includes worship bulletins, banners, church newsletters, Sunday school instructional material and overhead transparencies. When you are quoting from Bibles other than KJV, the quote must conform to the text – including appropriate spelling, punctuation, capitalization and special text formats – and the source must be indicated.

**CARTOONS**

Copyrighted cartoons are given the same protections as written text. You must receive written permission to copy.