

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Copyright laws (laws controlling the right to copy) were passed to protect the creative efforts of composers and authors. It is a crime to "steal" the words and images contained on paper or canvas. With the new laws you can only copy a creative work if you receive permission from the owner.

We have three reasons to follow the copyright laws:

1. Compliance with the law allows those **blessed with creative talents to be paid for their efforts.**
2. Violating the law can **result in lawsuits, fines, and even jail sentences.**
3. We all know the commandment that says, "**Thou shall not steal.**"

The law says that a "created work" is protected from the moment of its creation. For works created before 1922, the general rule is that they are protected for a total period of 56 years. For works created between 1922 and 1978, the general rule is that they are protected for 75 years. For works created since 1978, the general rule is that they are protected for the life of the author plus 50 years (although there are circumstances that allow new copyrights to last up to 100 years).

If a copyright has expired on a work, it falls into the "public domain" and is no longer protected. Such works can be copied without penalty.

The general rule under the Federal Copyright Law (FCL) is that the owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to:

1. Copy the work,
2. Make new arrangements, editions, etc.,
3. Distribute the work for sale or rental,
4. Perform the work publicly, such as songs, and
5. Display the work, such as movies.

There are many exceptions to the general rule such as singing songs from the hymnal (reference Section 110(3)).

According to copyright law, it is illegal to record or print by any form or means the words of a song without securing the permission of the copyright holder or obtaining a "Christian Copyright Licensing International" (CCLI) number. It is further suggested that you secure a mobile CCLI number by calling 1-800-234-2446.

### **The church copyright license allows:**

1. Printing songs in bulletins, liturgies, programs and congregational song sheets.
2. Printing songs in bound or unbound songbooks compiled by your church.
3. Creating overhead transparencies, slides or using other methods of electronic storage and retrieval for visual projection of songs.
4. Making customized vocal and/or instrumental arrangements of songs when no published version is available.
5. Recording songs during your church's worship service by audio and/or audio-visual means.

**Please note the church copyright license does not allow:**

1. Photocopying or duplicating any published arrangements such as choral sheet music (octavos), cantatas, musicals, handbell music, keyboard arrangements, vocal solos or instrumental works. These items must be purchased or may be duplicated only with permission from the copyright owner.
2. Rental or sale of copies created for the purpose of items 1-4 above.
3. Distribution outside the church of copies created for the purpose of items 1-4 above.

**Further, churches should not:**

1. Distribute tapes of the worship service, which contain songs.
2. Distribute videotapes of Christmas musicals or choir performances.
3. Show videos to children's groups at church as a means of "babysitting."
4. Buy one copy of videotape and make others.
5. Transfer filmstrips to video.
6. Buy a CD and make tape copies to loan out.

### **Showing Home Videos**

It is illegal to show video cassettes/disks and other productions in a home video format during children/youth programs, adult education sessions or general church functions. The US Copyright Act requires that churches obtain a public performance license to show home videos in church group settings. It applies equally to profit and non-profit institutions, regardless of whether admission is being charged. Thus, churches showing home videos at their functions or at church-operated retreats, camps, schools or day care centers must be licensed.

A blanket or umbrella license is available from the:

Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC)  
PO Box 66970  
Los Angeles, CA, 90066.

Please note that this does not cover all companies. You may also request a license by telephone at 1-800-462-8855.

A license is required even if you:

- **Own** the pre-recorded home video.
- Will not be **charging admission**.
- Are a non-profit organizations.
- Claim **an educational exemption** for Sunday schools or day care centers.

Materials **taped off television or cable TV may not be publicly shown** at any time even if the producing studio is otherwise covered by a license.

The MPLC has created a special fee category for churches of regional entities such as the KNCSB. We therefore will be the regional entity for the MPLC license. The discount can be substantial — as much as 50% of the basic fee charged individual churches. The price is based upon the following:

1. Number of churches participating in the process.
2. All churches/missions that have the same pastor.

Furthermore the discount program is not a one-time affair. It stays in place as long as a sufficient number of churches participate.

Church-operated schools, camps and day care centers can be licensed within our discount schedule.

Simply notify the KNCSB office in writing (attention: Media Library Department) requesting your desire to participate in this program.