

# **Copyright Questions and Answers**



Important reminders for congregations, schools, and other groups

### PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE

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TO PASTORS, MUSICIANS, TEACHERS, AND WORSHIP TEAMS

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**Q:** Does everyone have to request permission before photocopying or reusing publications—including pastors, Sunday school teachers, choir directors, ensembles and soloists, schools, and individual church members?

**A:** Yes. Copyright law states that individuals or groups wishing to reproduce, distribute, display, perform, or adapt a copyrighted work in any way must first obtain permission from the copyright owner. **Churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations are not exempt.** By law, a copyright owner has exclusive rights to the work they created. Just as you would not take merchandise from a store without paying for it, you shouldn't expect the intellectual property of others to be free.

# **Q:** Does it really make a difference if we copy items, especially when it's something like a student book and we've already purchased at least one copy?

**A:** Yes, it does. As a publisher, we pay writers and artists and musicians to create the materials we offer. We calculate the total cost of development and printing, estimate the number of congregations that will buy it, and set a fair price based on actual costs and number of copies printed. When congregations buy only part of the materials and make copies, we lose money and have fewer resources for publishing new products and curriculum.

There's also a practical side for congregations since photocopying can cost as much as or more than buying the product outright. Remember that every copy costs the church money in toner, paper, and maintenance.

**Q:** Does our church need to ask permission to photocopy or reuse items from Sunday school curricula such as *Shine: Living in God's Light* or *Salt & Light* Bible study, periodicals like Leader, or any congregational resources that we have purchased?

**A:** Yes. All these materials are copyrighted. You must either purchase extra copies or ask permission each time you wish to copy or reuse any portion of them.

## **Q:** Does our church or group need to ask permission to photocopy or reuse items from *Voices Together, Hymnal:* A Worship Book, Sing the Journey, and Sing the Story?

**A:** Yes. All these materials are copyrighted, and the publisher paid the copyright holders for permission to print them only in the songbooks. Generally, you must either purchase extra copies or ask permission each time you wish to copy, record, or reuse any portion of these songbooks. Find full details about music permissions at http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/resources/.

#### Q: What about hymns or songs—or other materials—that are not copyrighted by MennoMedia?

**A:** Check the copyright notice and contact the correct party. In the case of hymns or songs, refer to the copyright holders index located in the back of each hymnal or songbook. Before you use, record, or stream a work in any form, you must obtain permission from the correct copyright owner of the materials—whether it is copyrighted by MennoMedia or by another publisher or author. Even if you have a license from a music service such as CCLI, please be aware that it may not cover the material you wish to copy or reuse. Find full details about music permissions at http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/resources/.

# **Q:** We regularly record parts or all of our worship services so we can share them with our own members or post them on our church website or on YouTube. That's okay, right?

**A:** Please be aware that it's illegal to record or broadcast copyrighted music or worship resources without obtaining proper permission. Note that many musical works posted on YouTube or live-streamed on social media are done so illegally.

Furthermore, think carefully about what you're recording or broadcasting. It's fine for congregations to record their sermons, for instance, but you may want to be cautious about recording a sharing time that could reveal personal information.

#### Q: What about projecting music, lyrics, or other materials on a screen during worship?

**A:** To do this legally, you still need permission from the copyright holder. Find full details about music permissions at http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/resources/.

#### Q: How may we receive permission to make copies or reuse materials?

**A:** To request permission for works copyrighted by any of MennoMedia's imprints—Shine curriculum, *Salt & Light* Bible study, *Leader* magazine, or Herald Press books—or for help with any permissions questions, please contact Elisabeth Ivey, 540-208-4630; ElisabethI@MennoMedia.org.

#### Q: What information is needed to receive permission?

**A:** When seeking permission, please note the following:

- The exact material you wish to use, including the title of the article, book, or song; the author; and the page(s) that will be used
- How you plan to use the materials (photocopies, overhead display, etc.)
- The number of copies to be made
- The distribution method (will copies be sold or given away free?)
- The projected price, if anything is to be sold

Thanks for helping us by obeying copyright law!