

Copyright Guidelines – Reprint and Livestream

Copyright Licenses:

1. There are two copyright licenses available to churches, CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) and OneLicense.
2. The **reprint license** covers the reproduction of **print** music for all copyright holders registered with the licensing service. This gives you the right to reproduce song/hymn lyrics in a bulletin, and to project lyrics on screen for congregational use. Any copies must be destroyed if the copyright license is not renewed.
 - a. OneLicense and CCLI only cover the reproduction of print music and lyrics **that are in their catalogue of publishers**. They do **not** cover the public performance rights for music performed outside of a worship service.
 - b. Published anthem octavos (choir songs) and organ/piano music etc. (prelude, offertory, and postlude) are **not** covered by CCLI – only congregational hymns and songs listed on the service are covered. OneLicense is generally the same although it does cover **instrumental only performances of copyrighted works in its catalogue** under its streaming license.
 - c. Not all hymns/songs in our hymnbooks (HWB, STJ, STS) are covered by these licenses. Look up a hymn's/song's title or publisher on the OneLicense or CCLI website to determine which license allows reproduction [you may need to be signed in to the church's account to do this].
 - d. CCLI covers many choruses and contemporary worship songs.

Public Domain:

1. Music enters the public domain after the creator (composer and/or lyricist) has been dead for a specific number of years (with the new CUSMA in effect, it's best to go with 70 years as the cutoff).
2. If there is no © symbol in the annotation below the song, it is in the public domain.
3. Our hymnals are already over 25 years old, so some of the songs may have entered the public domain since publication. It may be helpful to use hymn resources such as <https://hymnary.org/> to determine death dates of composers and lyricists.
4. In short, any lyrics or music written by someone who died in 1949 [not 1950, because the creator has to have been dead for 70 calendar years] or earlier are now in the public domain in Canada and can be copied and shared freely without the need to obtain permission from the copyright holder or pay royalties.

Performance of Music:

1. For **in-person worship services**, the performance of music, both live and pre-recorded, is **copyright-exempt** in Canada under SOCAN rules (SOCAN is the Canadian performance rights organization that administers rights on behalf of copyright holders). This covers both sacred and secular music.
2. Outside of worship services, e.g. music used in concerts, dinners, coffee houses, conferences, etc., permission is required from the copyright holder. SOCAN offers annual licenses which cover performance of music for non-worship purposes.

Livestream/Podcast Worship Services:

1. A decade ago, SOCAN extended the copyright exemption to also include recording (for distribution to shut-ins etc.) or livestreaming of worship services. But with the new CUSMA free trade agreement which harmonizes Canadian copyright law with the more draconian laws south of the border, and given the international nature of the big streaming/video services, SOCAN is no longer willing to extend the **copyright exemption** for the purpose of worship to include streaming, video posting, podcasting, etc.
2. This is where the podcasting/streaming licenses from OneLicense and CCLI come in. **For songs which are not included in these licenses you need to seek permission from the copyright holder directly.** Many music publishers have a “Permissions” section on their website to facilitate this.
3. The SOCAN copyright exemption for the purpose of worship **does not** extend to posting videos of music performances from YouTube and other online services – permission is required from the copyright holder.

Worship Resources:

1. No streaming license covers the use of worship resources like those found at the back of our hymnals (prayers, readings, etc.). Most of them are copyrighted material which we can only use with permission of the copyright holder. Copyright holder information is in the back of each book.
2. Bible translations 1925 and later are copyrighted material. For **in-person worship** we are able to quote and/or reprint up to 500 verses without express written permission provided the verses quoted do not amount to a complete book of the Bible nor account for 50% of the written text of the total work in which they are quoted. There is no provision for livestream/podcast permissions (probably not a consideration at the time). **However, the RSV/NRSV publisher as well as the Common English Bible publisher have both updated their copyright permission statements to include live streaming at this time.**

Planning for online Worship:

1. Designate one point person for all things copyright. They can work with worship planners in song choice to determine its use or not, or to seek permission from copyright holders not covered by either license. They can also be responsible to report song usage to the licensing companies.
2. Be flexible with a number of choices for hymns/songs, just in case permission is not easily obtained.
3. Preludes and postludes are tricky in that most contemporary works are not covered for performance. Works in the Public Domain are fine to use.
4. There are some musicians making their music available for free at this time (check out Steve Bell or Bryan Moyer Suderman). Hope Music Publishing is offering their music for free use at this time as well.
5. Christine Longhurst and Carol Penner both have blogs with worship resources and you can ask them directly for permission to use these in your livestream worship services.
6. Or write your own call to worship and prayers.

Posting Copyright permission:

1. Every copyrighted work that is used needs to have the appropriate note either on screen while the song is being performed or under the lyrics if they are reprinted. Each licensing service has their own wording which will include your license number.

Reporting Copyright use:

1. Onelicense requires reporting of every hymn/song of theirs that is used. This is easiest done on a weekly basis.
2. CCLI does random 6 month windows for reporting.

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This is not meant to be a legal document but a set of guidelines. Each church is responsible for following copyright laws and doing their own due diligence.