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Dear Council of Bishops:

Grace and peace to you as our people and churches seek to love God and care for all creation.

Questions have arisen about permissions required for online use and distribution of contents from various materials—particularly as churches have raced to find ways to care for and assemble the faithful for online worship and other virtual events.

The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) joins with you to extend all the grace we can as we provide resources congregations will choose, use, and value for their critically important ministries.

As you know, there are many materials in our official and unofficial products that are intellectual property owned by others, and only licensed to UMPH or Abingdon Press for specific uses. All of our churches and UMPH are legally bound by rules that limit the use of such materials without the expressed permission of the copyright holders.

The Book of Worship

As previously announced, at least through April 30, 2020, UMPH has granted blanket permission for use of all materials owned by UMPH and published in *The Book of Worship*. Please see the attached press release.

The United Methodist Hymnal and Supplements

For hymns and tunes from *The United Methodist Hymnal* and other hymnals and songbooks, UMPH recommends churches use a license from OneLicense or CCLI, both of which administer music rights for multiple copyright holders. OneLicense has also announced that it is granting free licenses for one month during the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the material in these resources is not owned by UMPH.

The Common English Bible (CEB)

The CEB text may be quoted and/or displayed for online worship without additional permission. When quotations from the CEB text are used in church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies, or similar media (*which includes one-time use during live audio or video streaming*), we ask that the initials (CEB) be shown at the end of each quotation.

A generous permissions policy which includes online streaming is already in effect for quoting extensive selections from the CEB and details can be found at <https://www.commonenglishbible.com/terms-of-use>.

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Please also refer pastors and congregations to [Amplifymedia.com](https://www.amplifymedia.com), our new multimedia platform, where they will find many free and relevant resources.

Our hope is to partner with congregations to increase their ability to reach and serve all of God's people in this moment when ministries of healing, hope, and love are needed most. If you have any questions or further needs regarding use of UMPH materials, please contact me.

Grace and peace in the name of Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian K. McFarland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.