

Reading books for video, video conferencing (Zoom), Facebook, etc.

Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel for the United Church of Christ, wrote in response to a local church query about copyright issues with volunteers wanting to read storybooks to children online, as, for example, via the church's Facebook page:

Heather wrote:

"Thanks for your question and for paying attention to these issues. What the volunteers want to do is so sweet. Unfortunately, it would be a violation of copyright law for them to do this. It would not fall under the "fair use" exception to copyright law. The specific rights violated would be both the performance right and the right to make a copy (because of the video recording that occurs). You would need to get permission from each copyright owner (could be either the author or the publisher) to do this. I hope this is helpful."

In a related email, Rev. Patricia Goldberg, long-time AUCE member, asked if storybooks and/or other published material can be read in worship and other educational settings in the church without permission when the reading is not being recorded and broadcast online or in some other way.

Heather replied, "Stories can be read in an educational setting (Sunday School or likely even the part of worship catering to children) under the fair use exception; that does not extend to broadcasting generally online."

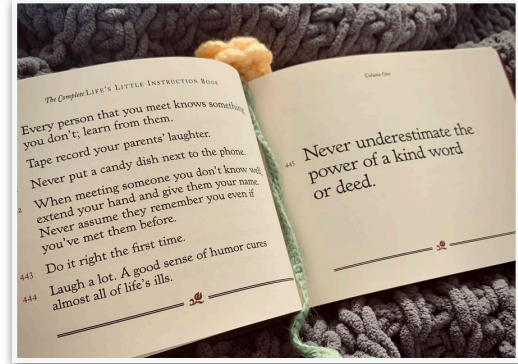


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