

Recording worship or a part of worship

Questions to consider:

- What will you use to record the service/sermon?
- Will you be recording audio or video?
- How will you get the file from your recording device into a form your congregation can use?
- Where will you put that service/sermon?
- Do you have the proper copyrights and permissions to record and or show the words, liturgy, music, etc.?
- Will there be children on the video? If so, do you have permission to record them? Is it clear to your congregation and participants that recording is occurring?

What will you use to record the service/sermon?

Sermons/services can be recorded using many different devices with varying ranges of quality and effectiveness.

Digital audio recorders can record audio-only files.

Most cell phones have the ability to record video. The storage capacity of these devices varies, and video files can be quite large, so it may not be practical to record an entire worship service via a cellular phone. Audio files recorded via cell phone tend to be much smaller.

Many cameras have video recording capability, but not all do.

Video cameras give you greater options for video/audio recording.

Computers/laptops with web cameras are able to record video and audio as well.

Will you be recording audio or video?

There are pros and cons to both audio and video recording. Audio recording can be made into a podcast and can be used on the go in a way that watching a video cannot. Video recordings help the person(s) watching experience the event with both audio and visual participation.

Audio files are smaller.

Video files are larger.

How will you get the file from your recording device into a form your congregation can use?

Using a digital recording device will produce a digital file. Typical audio files are WAV, MP3, AAC, WMA

- Typical video files are .MOV, .MPEG4, .MP4, .AVI, .WMV, .MPEGPS, .FLV

Where will you put that service/sermon?

No matter how you record the event, you will have to get it from that device to the Internet so that your congregation has access to it. If your website can embed audio files, this may be as easy as just uploading the audio file. For videos, due to their large size, a better option is to upload the file to a site like YouTube or Vimeo (both have free plans) and then linking to or embedding those files into your website using the 'share' features of those platforms.

Facebook allows you to upload a video directly to that platform.

Do you have the proper copyrights and permissions to record and or show the words, liturgy, music, etc.?

Copyright is an important consideration before recording either video or audio. Copyrights that cover worship in the room together often do not extend to recorded forms of worship. There are many different entities and places where you can secure additional copyright licenses in order to safely.

We are not experts in copyright at the Bi-District office, so we implore you to do your research and your homework as you embark upon recording/livestreaming your worship services.

Here are some places with church-specific copyright information.

- [Copyrights for Live Streaming](#)
- [Copyright Live Streaming Considerations](#)
- [CCLI Streaming License](#)

Will there be children on the video? If so, do you have permission to record them? Is it clear to your congregation and participants that recording is occurring?

One additional consideration as you prepare to record worship is that of the privacy of children. Does your church call children forward for a children's moment, for example. If so, the parents of those children need to know that you are recording. This can be as simple as a note in the worship bulletin or as a verbal announcement reminder. It is also always best practice to have a photo/media release on file for all of your regular children.