

buildingfaith

About Us

Building Faith (www.buildfaith.org) is a ministry of Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary that publishes articles and resources for ministry leaders. Our mission is to equip and inspire churches and individuals for ministries of Christian education and faith formation for all ages. Our website, publications, and subscriptions are free. Our weekly emails reach over 5000 subscribers, and thousands view our website each week.

Article Aims and Audience

We seek to publish articles that fulfill our mission and connect with our readers. Our audience is made up of lay and ordained members of diverse Christian communities across church denominations and the world. They are involved in various ministries and settings, including churches, dioceses, schools, college campuses, camps, and conference centers. We are passionate about providing practical ideas, stories, tips, and resources to empower readers for their ministry contexts. We value articles that are theologically grounded and that attend to the diversity and inclusivity of the body of Christ. We are committed to amplifying communities that have been underrepresented or marginalized on account of race, culture, nationality, gender, sexuality, and economic status.

Types of Articles

Building Faith focuses on practical resources. We feature articles on a wide range of topics, including the following (check out the [full list here](#)):

age-specific (children, youth, adults) programs	intergenerational programs
antiracism and intercultural competency	Latinx ministry
campus ministry	LGBTQIA+ affirming formation
creation care	liturgical seasons
curriculum	ministry leadership
disability and inclusion	service
evangelism	social justice
formative practices	worship

The types of articles that we publish include how-to articles, activity or event guides, resource lists, resources, teaching tips, liturgies, and prayers. The common thread through our articles is helpful, replicable stuff that works.

Here are some examples:

- Activity/event guide – [Create, Contemplate, and Calm: Hosting an Advent Arts Retreat](#)
- How-to (also an example of teaching tips) – [Finding a Feminist Bible Study](#)
- Liturgical practice – [“Blessing the Fields”: A Liturgy for Community Farms and Gardens](#)
- Resource – [Carrying Christmas With Us: Prayer Cards for All Twelve Days](#)
- Story and process – [Teens Teach Adults About Dismantling Racism](#)
- Tips/best practices – [Gender Inclusive Children’s Ministry: Where to Start](#)

Building Faith does not publish fiction, poetry, video or audio files, or advertisements.

Write For Us

You’ve got good ideas! We want to share your wisdom on Building Faith. Our writers are from all over the country and beyond, and they are:

- lay and clergy
- full-time, part-time, or volunteer
- working with children, youth, or adults of any age
- ministering in parishes, schools, college campuses, summer camps, or regional ministry

We are always seeking new authors, and we enjoy working with returning authors as well. You do not have to be an expert writer. We will provide editing support. If you have an idea for an article, please pitch it to us!

Send your pitch with your proposed topic, envisioned structure or plan, and thoughts on how the article would contribute to Building Faith’s audience to: buildfaith@vts.edu. We recommend that you check out the articles that we have already published on your topic so that you can discern how your article may offer a fresh or different take. We do our best to respond to pitches within 2–3 weeks.

Author Guidelines

- Our standard article length is 500–1000 words (articles over 1000 words will be considered)
- Articles may be written in English or in Spanish
- Articles should be practically oriented and focused on the needs of Christian formation leaders
- Structure your article draft with a brief introduction, body with the main content, and brief conclusion

Author Guidelines (continued)

- Use equitable and inclusive language:
 - Refer to God without masculine or feminine pronouns
 - Use gender-inclusive language for people (“humanity” rather than “man” or “mankind,” “they/them” for a person when gender identity is not specified)
 - Use identifications for particular groups or persons that reflect those groups’ or persons’ preferred ways of identifying themselves (according to race, nationality, gender, sexuality, disability, economics, religion)
 - As a rule of thumb, use language that resists victimizing, reducing, or stigmatizing people (for example, use a “people-first” description)
- Include citation information for all sources used (we will format it for our style)
- Send your article draft to our editing team by email as a Word doc or PDF attachment (sharing links to Word or Google Doc files is also acceptable)
- You are welcome to send high-quality photos to accompany your article; please attach photos as .jpg or .png files separately in your email and provide photo credits so that we can include photographers’ names in the publication
- If your article includes a downloadable or printable resource (like a document or slidedeck), please send that resource either as a PDF that we can host on our website or as a publicly available link to another website (we prefer not to use Google Drive links for sharing resources)
- If you have questions or want to have a conversation about your writing, please contact us at any stage of your writing process; we are here to support you!

Additional Information

- **Submission and publication process:** Once you send in an initial draft, we will follow up with you about possible edits to the content. When the article is prepared and ready for publication, we will send you a finalized version for your approval. We will publish the article on our website based on our publication schedule after we receive your approval.
- **Changes to publication agreement:** We will work with authors as much as we can to bring an article idea to publication once we have invited your article draft. However, we may decide not to move forward with publishing the article after receiving drafts or revisions. We reserve the right to decline publishing an article at any stage in the process.
- **Author bio:** We publish author bios with their articles and like to feature authors on our website’s Our Writers page for the month, so if your article is accepted for publication, please prepare a short bio (2–5 sentences long) with your pronouns to send us (you are welcome to provide a link to your website, project, etc.); if you want to be featured on the Our Writers page, please send us a head shot image as well.
- **Honorarium:**
 - We provide an honorarium of \$75 to authors for pieces written specifically for and published first on Building Faith.
 - Authors who would like to receive an honorarium will need to complete appropriate payment forms, often a W9 and direct deposit authorization form.
 - On occasion, we will republish articles from individuals or organizations with permission, but we are not able to provide an honorarium for this content.

Additional Information (continued)

- **Copyright:** Our authors retain rights over their content.
- **Sharing:** Please feel free to share your published work! We always ask that anyone who shares includes the article's URL and the author's name.

Questions?

Please reach out to Building Faith's editing team if you have any questions about pitching or writing for Building Faith. You can contact us at: buildfaith@vts.edu