



BUILDING FAITH

Author Guidelines

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. Our readers 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, disability, 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 our [full list of article topics](#)):

- age-specific programs (children, youth, adults)
- antiracism and intercultural competency
- campus ministry
- creation care
- curriculum
- disability and inclusion

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- evangelism
- formative practices
- intergenerational ministry
- Latinx/Latine ministry
- LGBTQIA+-affirming formation
- liturgical seasons
- ministry leadership
- service
- social justice
- 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 – [Planning a Youth Creation Care Pilgrimage](#)
- how-to or teaching tips – [Gender Inclusive Children's Ministry: Where to Start](#)
- liturgical practice – [The Sacredness of the Waiting: An Advent Reflection with a Wreath Lighting Liturgy](#)
- resource – ["The Serviceberry": A Five-Week Bible and Book Study](#)
- story and process – [Teens Teach Adults about Dismantling Racism](#)
- tips or best practices – [Disability Is Not a Dirty Word](#)

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 ordained
- full-time, part-time, or volunteer
- working with children, youth, adults of any age, or multi-generational groups
- ministering in parishes, schools, college campuses, summer camps, or regional settings

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.

Submission Guidelines

1. Length

Our standard article length is 500–1000 words; articles over 1000 words will be considered.

2. Language

Articles may be written in English or in Spanish.

3. Purpose

Articles should be practically oriented and focused on the needs of Christian formation leaders.

4. Structure

Your article draft should have a brief introduction, body with the main content, and conclusion.

5. Equitable and Inclusive Language Guide

- **God** – Refer to God without masculine or feminine pronouns
- **people** – Use gender-inclusive language for people ("humanity" rather than "man," "they/them" for a person when gender identity is not specified)
- **identities** – Use identifications for particular groups or persons that reflect those groups' or person's preferred ways of identifying themselves (according to race, nationality, gender, sexuality, disability, economics, religion)
- **humanizing terms** – As a rule of thumb, use language that resists victimizing, reducing, or stigmatizing people

6. Citations

Include citation information (and links when appropriate) for all sources used; we will format citations for our style.

7. Document Format

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.

8. Images

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.

9. Accompanying Resources

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.

10. Writing Support

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Author Bio

We publish author bios with their articles and like to feature authors on our website's Our Writers page for the month. 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 headshot image as well.

4. 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.

5. Copyright

Our authors retain rights over their content.

6. 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