

Writing Opportunities for *Mandate* Magazine

Beginning with the November 2009 issue, *Mandate* will be expanding in size and scope. Its focus continues to be mission, with a broadened understanding of God's mission. Its content will still include justice, global and ecumenical relations, and non-congregational mission in Canada, but will be broadened to include all the various aspects of congregational life, such as discipleship formation, worship, stewardship, and outreach.

The new *Mandate* will be adding several new sections that will welcome contributions. These sections are listed below. Please feel free to share this invitation.

Mandate is published in November, February, May, and August. Submissions for a specific issue must be received four months in advance (e.g., July 1 for the November issue). Electronic submissions are preferred but not essential. Send questions or submissions to Rebekah Chevalier, editor:

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This Worked

Length: 600 words

This section contains submissions from congregations telling of something they tried successfully.

Include the details of your congregation's success story, including advice for others that might be interested in doing something similar (e.g., what worked, what didn't). Topics can relate to the full spectrum of congregational life e.g., faith formation, mission and outreach, stewardship, worship.

At the end of the article, provide the following information separately: congregation name, location, size of congregation, community context (e.g., small town, suburban, etc.)

Submissions for This Worked must be accompanied by a relevant photo that is clear, not too dark or too light, and at least 500 KB in size (for electronic jpg photos). Close-ups of a few people work best.

Bible Study

Length: 1,300 words

Length of the study is 30 minutes, to be undertaken in a small group. The study needs to generally follow the structure of opening, reading a Bible passage, a group process (usually discussion questions), sometimes an action suggestion, sometimes a hymn suggestion, and a closing. Topics: seasonal or thematic

Worship

Length: 1,500 words

The primary audience for *Mandate* worship material is lay leaders. Often a small group or committee has responsibility for planning a Sunday worship service and they turn to the outline in *Mandate*. Thus the outline must be very clear, must be able to be picked up and

used as is (although of course people do sometimes adapt it), and must not require theological or educational training on the part of those using it. Provide an actual worship outline, with the various components of a worship service, not just notes from which someone could create an outline.

If you are creating a drama or an interactive reading as part of the service, this needs to be explained clearly. Give stage directions and actual lines or suggested lines (for a drama), so that people can do the drama without a lot of additional fleshing out or writing.

Mandate welcomes worship outlines that are seasonal or focused on a theme, such as for a special Sunday.

Program Boost

Length: 1,600 words (for a two-hour workshop outline)

This section contains workshop outlines for adults for use in a group setting. Topics are thematic or seasonal.

If there is a sidebar with background information or a worksheet, etc., this would be included in the word count.

Kick Start

Length: 1,600 words

This section contains a workshop outline or curriculum piece for use by leaders of children or youth.

Curriculum pieces should be designed to be used in a one-hour time slot. Sidebars, worksheets, instructions for a game or craft, etc., are included in the word count.

Words & Images

Length: 600 words

This is a discussion guide for small groups.

This section is designed to give congregational small groups—such as women's groups, book clubs, or other study groups—a discussion guide to go with a current DVD or book (fiction or non-fiction). There will be two discussion guides per issue, one for a movie and one for a book. The main part of the discussion guide is questions for discussion. In addition, the discussion guide should include an opening and a closing, and relevant scripture reading(s).

General Notes

Material reproduced from another source is to be avoided where possible. If not, please provide full source information so we can seek permission i.e., title of the book/magazine/website, author, publisher, year of publication, page numbers, URL.

Word lengths are maximums and can be shorter.

Contributors will be paid a modest fee for submissions that are published.