



Missio Alliance

MISSIO ALLIANCE WRITING COLLECTIVE FRAMEWORK

Creating a Brave Space for Writers to Flourish

Since our inception in 2011, Missio Alliance has organically grown several integrated writing teams that function as one collaborative Writing Collective. For this coming season, our Writing Collective will work as one team with two distinct ‘Voices’ and an occasional Cohort:

LEADING VOICES: *Writers who speak from a defined perspective with a humble voice about real transformation in their context, while seeking to empower the broader Church towards the renewal of all things.* Leading Voices are theological practitioners who engage Kingdom transformation as both thought leaders and missional advocates ‘on the ground.’ Whether writing from a pastoral, theological, pastoral formational, justice/advocacy, or missional perspective, or a combination of several of these streams, Leading Voices communicate the heart of Missio Alliance uniquely in their writing and praxis.

- **Annual Writing Expectation:** Leading Voices are *invited to steward the Kingdom work of Missio Alliance* through their unique leadership perspective. They are expected to write at least two original pieces of 750 – 1,500 words for publication on missioalliance.org each year, plus one shorter, informal piece of 250 – 500 words that invites conversation on Missio’s Substack. Series, multiple-part pieces, new work that ultimately becomes a future book, and contributions to Missio Alliance long form series are encouraged. Engagement as a Leading Voice will be mutually discerned and reviewed annually.

CONTRIBUTING VOICES: *Everyone else!* Contributing Voices will frequently share many of the characteristics of writers who are Leading Voices, but due to their unique vocational call, leadership commitments, and/or ability to write consistently for Missio Alliance, will function as a valued ‘extended’ member of our Writing Collective.

- **Annual Writing Expectation:** Varies, but the invitation is to write at least one original piece of 750 – 1,500 words for publication on missioalliance.org each year. Additional pieces or publication on Substack to be determined individually.

WRITING FELLOWS COHORTS: *Writers who are honing their unique voice and contribution as a writer through our Writing Fellows Cohorts.* Each Cohort consists of 8-12 writers who are primarily women, BIPOC, and global voices from the Majority World outside of North America, and runs for a defined period of 6-8 months. Writing expectations will be communicated upon acceptance. Keep an eye on our newsletter for the next Cohort launch!



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Missio Alliance curates content and conversations around the most pressing needs of the Church to foster meaningful change. We desire to invite Christian leaders into a generative, expansive, intercultural network that cultivates a holistic theology and practice.

OUR WRITING COLLECTIVE VISION: Our Writing Collective creates a safe space for brave conversations to flourish through deep theological reflection, perceptive cultural analysis, and an honest witness as the global Church.

We focus our writing on the integration of three areas: *formation*, *justice*, and *mission*. This space (primarily digital in nature) exists to create a shared sense of common meaning and relational connection as followers of the Way of Jesus across the global Church in an increasingly fragmented, lonely, and confusing world. We desire for this space to have five core elements:

1. **We seek to create a diverse space** – One where voices and perspectives that emerge from a place of historic Christian orthodoxy, and yet tend to be marginalized within broader Christian discourse, can be clearly developed, platformed, and heard. *In particular, the voices of women, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), and global voices from the Majority World outside of North America will be platformed.*
2. **We seek to create a hospitable space** – One that winsomely, yet poignantly, invites robust discussion as opposed to shutting people down, even while holding to core theological truths and deep-seated biblical convictions. This hospitable space can foster a prophetic witness that heals the local church everywhere.
3. **We seek to create an integrated space** – One where substantive theological reflection emerges from and is oriented toward healthy ministry practices, with a particular emphasis on the integration of a maturing spiritual formation, a holistic pursuit of justice, and the reimagining of healthy missional postures.
4. **We seek to create a resourceful space** – One where Christian leaders who minister in diverse, localized contexts can offer and find tangible tools, reflective practices, and a robust community that is maturing in all aspects of their Kingdom engagement.
5. **We seek to create a hopeful space** – One where the deeply perfect love of God, our Friend, is at work within us, the Church, in this cultural moment, in a manner that bears faithful witness to the story of restoration that has taken place throughout human history, and is bending towards an integrated wholeness in the age to come.



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EDITORIAL GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

1. **Read through this Writing Collective Framework document and our website (missioalliance.org)** to gain a sense of the collective vision that informs our writing, the story of Missio Alliance and our work in the world, and recently published pieces.
2. **Prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit while reflecting upon what God may be inviting you to write.** Prayerful discernment is critical to the creative writing process!
3. **Submit a potential title, thesis statement, and short abstract (summary of your big idea) paragraph of no more than 100 words to the Editorial Director** via the online submission form, or by emailing editor@missioalliance.org. This does not have to be a final draft version. Dialogue with the Editorial Director over your big picture concept.
4. **If approved for article writing by the Editorial Director, you will collectively decide a publication date** (when your piece will go live on our website or Substack), **and a corresponding ‘solid first draft’ submission date 5 weeks prior to your publication date.** Submitting your draft earlier than 5 weeks is encouraged for deeper editing.
5. **Begin researching, crafting, and editing a piece of 750 – 1,500 words in length (~3 – 6 typed pages). You may request up to a 2,000 word count (~8 pages) piece from the Editorial Director,** but consider that as an absolute upper limit unless your piece is split in two or is a part of an ongoing longform series (again, an Editorial Direction decision). Submit a ‘solid first draft’ that includes footnotes, quotation and website citations, and has been checked for spelling and grammatical errors.
6. **Missio Alliance’s Style Guide may be requested from the Editorial Director,** but in general, **we follow the [Chicago Manual of Style](#)** (also known as [Turabian Formatting](#), a simplified version of the Chicago Manual of Style primarily used for academic writing).
7. **Complete the [Missio Alliance Author Profile](#) form,** including a short bio, all relevant social media handles, and a high-quality, recent headshot.
8. **The Editorial Director will return ‘quick rough draft edits’ approximately 1-2 weeks prior to article publication as necessary.** Turn around requested edits in a timely manner.
9. **You will receive a preview link and ‘live’ article link approximately 1-2 days prior to article publication.** Read through your piece one final time for any last minute changes!
10. In general, articles are published twice a week at 9:00am EST. Once live, **please share your piece on social media while tagging Missio Alliance ([@missioalliance](#))** so we can re-share!