

From the Editors:

We want to thank you so much for your faithfulness in agreeing to write a submission for the Holston Conference Daily Devotions. Your words will inspire over four thousand readers from all over our conference to grow deeper in their walk with Christ. That's an amazing privilege and an awesome responsibility.

Our job as editors is to help you best represent yourself, the Holston Conference, and Jesus Christ. Our goal is not to rob you of your voice but rather to do everything we can to help you shine. To help ensure quality across all our devotions, we have put together the following style guide. We hope it will be helpful to you as you write your devotion. We ask that you PLEASE read this guide carefully as it will help you to fully understand our expectations so that your submission can succeed.

If you have any questions about any of the points here, or any other topic regarding your submission, we invite you to contact us at madasunloy@holston.org

Thank you again for your willingness to serve!

Sincerely,
The HCD Editorial Team

Anne Travis
Danny Nettleton
Charles Ensminger
Beth Tipton
Joshua Swanson

Style Guide

Each submitted devotion should include the following elements:

- The author's name, whether they are clergy or laity, church they attend, and which district they are from. There is no need for further titles or positions to be listed.
- A title for the devotion in bold.
- The scripture passage numbers and the preferred translation should be listed under the title in italics. There is no need to include the text of the scripture in your submission. It will be added later. Please choose one scripture to be the focus of your devotion.
- The body of the devotion. This should be 400-1000 words. If your devotion is longer than 1,000 words, it will be edited down.
- All devotions should end with a prayer in italics. The prayer should be 1-5 sentences.

Regarding the content of the devotion, we ask that you consider the following:

- These devotions are meant to be inspiring and uplifting. They can occasionally be challenging or thought provoking but they should never be mean. Material that is offensive or derogatory will be edited out. If there is too much of this material, the devotion will not be published.
- Devotions are meant to be timeless and edifying to all Christians across the political spectrum. Material that is overly current or overly political will be either edited or rejected for publication. A good general rule is to ask yourself when writing: "Will this be relevant in 5 years?"
- These devotions are published by the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. Therefore, they should reflect the beliefs and values of the United Methodist Church and its members and the theology expressed should be Wesleyan in nature. If your content falls outside these bounds, your devotion may be edited or rejected for publication.

Regarding style and grammar:

- Our editors want to present you in the best light. Therefore, your devotion will be edited for grammar and clarity. We realize authors may occasionally be upset when they feel like the editors have made a choice that they wouldn't have made themselves. The best thing you can do to prevent editing choices you disagree with is to take the time to proof read and edit your submission yourself. Consider using a service like www.grammarly.com to aid you in editing.
- All submissions should be word documents. We ask that you use a standard font such as Helvetica or Times New Roman. Please use standard spacing and unjustified right margin. These simple courtesies will make the editing and publishing of your submission much easier.
- Please avoid using all caps in your work. All caps come off as LOUD AND ANGRY! Similarly, be sparing in your use of bold and italics.
- If you are sharing any writing that is not your own such as a poem or a quotation, make sure you cite the author.
- If you are unsure about punctuation usage, a great online resource is www.thepunctuationguide.com! We highly recommend their top ten tips.

On the following page is a short devotion by a guest author. While the devotion is shorter than we recommend, we've included it as a template for how you should format your submission.

Cookie Monster
Laity
1st UMC
Sesame Street District

"C" is for "Christ"

John 3:16 (NRSV)

Hello! My name is Cookie Monster and me love cookie! Me see cookie and me get so excited! Because cookie so chewy and yummy and sweet. Me pick up cookie and go: NOM! NOM! NOM! NOM!

Me love cookie... but... me would never DIE for cookie. When Cookie Monster read John 3:16, me is amazed at how much God loves us. God loves us even more than Cookie Monster loves cookie. Why? Because Jesus died for you... for me.. and even for Cookie Monster. This shows that God is not some grouch who live in can and yell, "scram," at the world. No! God loves the world so much he let his Son die. Cookie Monster thinks that is the biggest love there is.

So me now know that "C" is not just for "Cookie." "C" also for "Christ." And that's good enough for me. Now if you excuse Cookie Monster... Cookie. Monster. Sees. COOOOOKIE! NOM! NOM! NOM! NOM!

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus for loving us more than Cookie Monster loves cookies. Help us to love others too. Amen.