Association of Christians in Counselling and Linked Professions

professional standards authority accredited register

accord journal guide for contributors



Background

accord is a quarterly journal published by the Association of Christians in Counselling and Linked Professions (ACC). We welcome contributions from anyone who believes that they have something interesting to say about the fields of professional counselling or pastoral care and want to share with a wider audience. We particularly welcome articles that seek to explore psychological and spiritual aspects of mental health and wellbeing from a Christian worldview perspective. Our membership comes from a wide variety of different Christian denominational backgrounds, and *accord* is distributed widely within the Christian and secular counselling world, in education and training colleges, counselling centres, churches and associated centres for pastoral care.

What we are looking for

1. **articles**

   We are especially wanting to share up-to-date research or outcomes from literature reviews on topics that have relevance for counselling (circa 80% of our readership) and pastoral care (circa 20% of our readership).

   We are also interested in the deep knowledge that comes from extensive practice and experience of working in particular areas whether it is about particular conditions, e.g., depression, bereavement, trauma; or counselling approaches, e.g., person centred, psychodynamic, and areas of practice, e.g., supervision, children and young people, relationship counselling; or working with mental health concerns in a pastoral setting.

   We value practical guides to working in areas of counselling or pastoral care from e.g., the challenges of delivering online counselling or setting up a 'hybrid' drop-in support and counselling service; including topics relating to mental health that have been in the news, e.g., tackling the mental health crises effecting young people.

   We like to share with our members unusual and creative ways of practising, for example walking or drumming therapy.

Finally, we are also interested in articles that look at the areas of coaching and spiritual direction.

2. **book reviews**

   Book reviews do not have to be of current or newly published material; they can be books that have influenced your practice or ministry in positive ways, which you want to recommend to others.

3. **news**

   News from our membership body and/or the wider world relevant to our readership.

If you are thinking of writing anything but would like some advice on whether it is suitable, please email accord@acc-uk.org and we can arrange to have a call to discuss your ideas.

Dates for submission

Spring: End of January

Summer: Start of May

Autumn: Start of July

Winter: End of October

Length

accord pages each contain approximately 450–500 words.

Please aim for:

- 2-4 pages for an article (we will consider a 5-page article where necessary)
- 0.5-1.5 pages for news items and book reviews

When writing an article

- It is helpful if you provide a title and sub-headings in the text. Please send us any photos or images as separate .jpeg or similar files (not embedded in the text) that you would like to be used to illustrate your article. If you are unsure about copywrite, please let us know, and we can use them to source similar images, in which case it is helpful to have a rationale to guide our choice.
- Articles referring to books or research should use a simplified referencing guide (please see below). However, please try to avoid extensive referencing or long bibliographies as this limits the space available. Let us know if this will present you with any problems.
- If you would like specific information to be explained or emphasised, such as definition of terms, key points etc which could be placed in a 'box' beside an article – please include them with your article and we can see what we can accommodate.
- If your topic is large and complex or fits well into a 'series', we are happy to consider publication over more than one issue.
- Please include a brief bio.

When writing a news item or book review

- Photos of events are good to have, but please ensure that you have the permission of anyone included before sending them to us and as above please send as a separate .jpeg or similar file.
- We will publish your name (unless you want to withhold it) and a very brief context/description of yourself, e.g., "Mary Kelly, counsellor and trainer practising in Luton"; "John Gooding, lay reader and pastoral care team leader based in Sheffield".

Practical matters

- Please send articles in MS Word format as an email attachment to the editor accord@acc-uk.org.

- Photos need to be at least 300dpi and a file size greater that 300Kb. Please use .jpeg or other standard image file formats and **send as a separate file (not embedded in the word document)**.
- Please ensure that your work is your own and you are not infringing the copywrite of any person. If you have published part or whole of the same article elsewhere, please confirm that you have permission to reproduce it for ourselves.
- We cannot guarantee to publish an article; the decision to do so will depend on many different variables, including an assessment of quality, relevance to our audience and the capacity of each issue of the journal.
- Sadly, we are not in a position to pay our contributors. In effect by submitting an article you are gifting it to the readership of *accord* through the ACC.

In article citations and reference lists

Ensure that you reference key arguments and especially direct quotations in the article by citing the surname of the author, the date of publication and the page or pages where the argument or quote can be found. For example:

> "by preference of the therapist or by preference of the client, therapy sometimes occurs between persons belonging to the same congregation. When these two arenas overlap (counselling and Christian fellowship), the problems encountered become very similar to secular and non-secular settings in rural areas where mental health professionals cannot avoid encountering their clients in day-to-day activities outside their professional sphere." (Geyer, 1994, p.187).

Then in reference list at the end of the article, include all the sources that you have directly referenced by author, date of publication, title and the source.

For the example above you would list:

Geyer, M.C. (1994) 'Dual Role Relationships and Christian Counselling', *Journal of Psychology & Theology*, 22, 3, pp.187-195.

If the source is the internet include the URL and date accessed. The reference list should be in alphabetical order by author, or if no author by title of the article or

book. If there are multiple works by the same author these are ordered by date (most recent first). If the works are in the same year, they are ordered alphabetically by the title and referenced with 2010a, 2010b etc.

When an eBook looks like a printed book, with publication details and pagination, reference as a printed book, which would be:

Surname, Initial. (Year of publication) *Title: With subtitles only initial word has caps*. Edition if later than first. Place of publication: publisher. Series and volume number if relevant. Page number if relevant.

For chapters within a multi-contributor book: Paul, S. & Charura, D. (2015) 'What has Love to do with it?' in Charura, D. and Paul, S. eds. *Love and Therapy in Relationship*. London: Routledge, pp.1-12.

For eBooks that do not contain print publication details:

Surname, Initial. (Year of publication) *Title of Book*. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Journal articles:

Surname, Initial. (Year of publication) 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number (issue number), page reference.

If accessed online:

Surname, Initial. (Year of publication) 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number (issue number), page reference. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

NB website addresses should include www. where relevant, but *not* include the https://.