



Webber Institute Books

Book Proposal

The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies is a unique school. Since its inception in 1999, the Institute has formed servant leaders for the work of worship renewal around the world. Our alumni represent a rich body of experience and knowledge and, accordingly, the Institute is eager to help expand their influence. Webber Institute Books provides a peer-reviewed option for students, alumni, faculty, trustees, and staff of IWS to publish their original works. If you have a compelling idea for a book that aligns with the mission, vision, and core values of IWS, we want to hear from you. (<https://iws.edu/about/mission>)

To date, Webber Institute Books (WIB) has published ten titles found at <https://iws.edu/books>. All of these are available through all the main commercial book sellers and are available in Kindle format.

Webber Institute Books is interested in publishing works that further the work of worship renewal in the local church and in the academy. Your book may be in any form that is focused on the objective of worship renewal. We are also considering publishing monographs, research-oriented studies on one subject that offer a unique contribution to our discipline.

The Process

If you have a compelling book idea, we ask that you submit it to us in a formal proposal. (See proposal guidelines below.) A proposal will help you to conceptualize and articulate your project so that we may evaluate its viability for publication. Upon receiving your proposal, we (the WIB editorial committee) will reply back to you within a month with suggestions for moving forward or a determination that we believe your book does not fit our criteria for publication.

A good proposal includes at least the following:

- A brief, one-paragraph summary of your book
- A working title of your book; two or three are even better
- An explanation of why you wish to write this book, why it's needed, how it aligns with the mission, vision, and values of IWS, and for whom you are writing
- The table of contents
- A brief summary or outline of each chapter
- One or two sample chapters
- An estimate of the total number of words in the completed manuscript
- An estimate of how long you will need to complete the manuscript
- A proposed marketing plan that you will execute for your book
- A list of competing books, with a brief explanation of how your book will differ from and improve on each
- Your résumé or CV

Working on your manuscript:

After you have heard back from us with the word to move forward, begin working on the rest of your manuscript. The general editor of WIB will work with you to keep your idea focused and polished. As with your IWS thesis, it is important that you keep the “golden thread” running and progressing through your work. Be sure that your project articulates and is informed by a rigorous theology of worship and, depending on your topic, meaningful historical and cultural reflection. It is your responsibility to present your work edited for English grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. If necessary, we recommend that you hire an excellent editor for that purpose. WIB can provide a list of recommended copy editors. Rough drafts submitted to the WIB general editor with too many errors will be returned unread for correction. You are also responsible to arrange any copyright clearance/royalties that may be necessary for images you might include in your text.

Webber Institute Books are published in a process known as “self-publishing” in which you, the author, pay the publisher to do the work of publishing and distributing your book, then you receive royalties from the sales. WIB has made arrangements with two publishers to publish our books as an imprint. These publishers are Good Faith Media (<https://goodfaithmedia.org/>) and Covenant Books (<https://covenantbooks.com>). Each company has their strengths and weaknesses which the general editor can explain to you. When your manuscript is complete and approved by the WIB General Editor, you will submit your work to whichever publisher you choose. You will complete the publishing process with their staff, which typically takes about ten months.

While you are working on the manuscript, you should also begin forming plans for marketing your book. The first place to start promoting your book is to consider who might write a forward for the project. IWS has several distinguished and well-known authors who may write a forward for you. Their name attached to your book is the first step in promoting it. Second, consider other well-known leaders in the worship renewal field who might write an endorsement for your book. Your publisher should prepare a press release and have it distributed through one of the Christian press distribution services. They will also make your book available through Amazon and several other book distributors. IWS is willing to promote your book through the *Anamnesis* newsletter, at our semi-annual intensives, and carry a small inventory in our bookstore. Beyond that, you should consider how you might promote your book through your own networks.

May God bless you as you consider your calling as an author. As an IWS alumnus, you have already proven yourself as a vital member of the worship renewal community. We are eager to hear from you.

Submit your idea and proposal to:

Bill Kirkwood, General Editor

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