



Name: Emily Snell

Major: Journalism and New Media

Graduation Year: 2012

Emily Snell is a Publisher's Assistant and Church Relations Specialist with The Upper Room, a global ministry in Christian Publishing based in Nashville. With her B.A. degree and her graduate certificate in Conflict Management, Emily is well-equipped for all aspects of her role. Read more about her rewarding work:

What is the day in the life like at your job?

My role involves working with our executive leadership on a variety of administrative tasks, so every day is different! You'll often find me working on corporate communication, handling meeting logistics, proofreading newsletters, coordinating events, and generally, making sure our leadership has what they need in order to be successful! I also have the privilege of connecting with church leaders to understand their ministry needs and to educate them about our resources.

What do you love about your job?

I love our focus on prayer and spiritual formation. It's really meaningful to do work that invites people to connect with God each day. My coworkers are the most thoughtful, caring, fun people - such a gift!

What is challenging about your role?

There's so much happening all the time, and keeping track of those many moving parts can feel a bit chaotic and stressful! Frequent interruptions are a regular part of every day, so it's important for me to know how to prioritize tasks while also being available and present to the people who drop in and need help.

What are the benefits of working in this field?

It's rewarding to work alongside people who care deeply about spiritual growth. My coworkers and our extended network of partners speak, write, lead, serve, and work for the spiritual healing of the world. This is constantly pushing me to go deeper in my understanding of who God is and how God is at work in the world right now.

What experiences did you have that prepared you for this role?

Before working at The Upper Room, I was a freelance journalist for United Methodist Communications while also working full-time in the Lipscomb Business Office. My role with UMCom gave me helpful insight into the Methodist Church and connected me with many of my current colleagues. Freelancing also enhanced my writing and proofreading skills, which are always useful in a publishing context. And my work at Lipscomb

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helped me with prioritizing tasks, processing financial transactions, and communicating with constituents. Beyond my work experience, the educational training I received while pursuing my graduate certificate in Conflict Management has proved incredibly valuable in every setting.

What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?

The publishing industry is ever-changing, so it seems important to develop an attitude of curiosity and adaptability.

What should a student know about your field?

Two qualities that will help you succeed: attention to detail and an eagerness to learn. If you can demonstrate an eye for detail, that will serve you well whether you're proofreading, handling budgets, meeting clients, or setting up an event. And if you operate with a spirit of humility and teamwork that shows you are ready to work alongside others and learn from others, you'll build valuable relational capital in your workplace and beyond.

What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?

If you're going to work in publishing, in addition to studying communication or English, knowledge in business and technology will bolster your ability to contribute positively to your organization.