

# **The Land: A United Methodist Faith Community**

*Gathering in Community. Growing in Discipleship.*

## **New Faith Community Implementation Form**

Submitted On Behalf of: The Land Leadership Team

### **In Partnership With:**

Hope United Methodist Church, Greenwood Village, CO

Mile High Pikes Peak District of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church

<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b> Rev. Stephanie L. Price 303-902-7268 (cell) 303-779-1040 (church) 5101 South Dayton Street Greenwood Village, CO 80111
--

## History

Rev. Stephanie Price was appointed to Hope UMC in July of 2010 as the Associate Pastor with absolutely no ambitions to organize a new faith community. When Hope member, Dick Hanson, would casually ask her what she thought the Conference should do with the “Land” they owned in southeast Aurora, starting a new faith community never crossed her mind. For her it was Dick’s passing after complications from a car crash that transformed their casual conversations into a personal call to action in an effort to honor his years of love and labor of the “Land.”

Simultaneously, her own spiritual journey had led her toward a searching for a wholeness where the food she ate, the clothing she wore, the money she spent all supported the values she felt were shared in the Gospel. As she began to share her cravings for a more just and compassionate way to exist in the world as a person of faith, Hope’s chair of the Adult Education Committee, Bill Stevenson, Director of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center, introduced her to the concept of cooperatives. In 2012, Bill hired Rev. Stephanie as a cooperative developer consultant for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation. Her role would focus on forming mutually beneficial relationships between local cooperatives and local congregations across Colorado for the purpose of strengthening local economies.

It was because of the collision of these experiences that in September of 2012, Rev. Stephanie Price organized the Food and Justice Initiative as an umbrella organization of the Church and Society Conference Committee. The Food and Justice Initiative began as a group of faithful young people passionate about hunger issues, environmental responsibility, and economic equality. With the awareness of the Conference-owned property in Aurora and Rev. Stephanie’s personal motivation to honor Dick’s legacy, the Food and Justice Initiative soon evolved into a volunteer network of people envisioning a faith community that teaches and supports values of holy living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In September of 2013, this sub-group of the Food and Justice Initiative including Pastor Don Bird, Lead Pastor of Hope UMC, received a \$5,000 grant to explore the feasibility of the utilization of the 9.5 acres in southeast Aurora as a future faith community existing to answer the question, “What does faithful living look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?” Over the course of six months the core team worked hard to articulate a vision, collect relevant information, and create a schematic outline for development for the new faith community we simply referred to as “The Land.” In April of 2014, our team presented our findings to the NCDC, including several indicators identified as evidence to continue moving forward.

In light of our feasibility findings, many questions remained to determine the timeline of our development; the most pressing question being: Where and when could we access water? ... And, at what cost? To gain a greater understanding of this issue, Amy Behres, Urban Cooperative Director at the Farmers Union, set up a phone conference with Libby Tart-Schoenfelder, Senior Planning Engineer at the City of Aurora to discuss the potential and process for accessing water at the site prior to residential development for agricultural purposes. Our hope was to

utilize an alternative water source allowing us to begin development of our agricultural features of the faith community prior to the residential development reaching completion. This, we believed, would give us the presence of a vibrant faith community as people were moving into the neighborhood setting our faith community up to function as an initial gathering space for new residents. Two weeks after this conference call, Libby contacted our team to express the City's enthusiasm for our vision and to request that we come present our concept for a faith community that integrated agricultural practice with spiritual discipline to the City of Aurora Planning Department. After this initial presentation to the City of Aurora, Ron Skarka, The Land's developer consultant, told the team that this was the most excited he had ever seen a City Planning Team and that he felt confident that we could move forward at a greater pace than we had originally anticipated.

Anticipating a preparatory phase of 12-24 months before the official launch of the faith community could take place, the team has put all hands on deck to ensure that we would be ready for all that God has planned for The Land. Ron Skarka collected bids from civil engineers and landscape architects and plans to begin the Site Plan Process with the City of Aurora; Don Bird and Stephanie Price are working in partnership with Mile High Pikes Peak District Superintendent on discussions at Hope regarding the possibility of clergy salary support for The Land, and a Legacy Grant application has been submitted to the Conference Trustees which would enable the team to support capital expenses in Phase 1 of the faith community's development. Since 2013, our team has gathered at The Land on an annual, and now on a quarterly basis, to worship together and to share communion as we celebrate all that God is doing to gather us in and send us out to transform the world as we strive to live out the call of discipleship.

## **Plan for Vitality**

### **What is your vision?**

**VISION:** To cultivate a spiritual community that nourishes sacred relationships between the Creator and all of creation.

**MISSION:** To facilitate individual wholeness and communal transformation through the integration of agricultural practice and spiritual disciplines.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Through worship, small group engagement, and missional activities, “The Land” exists to collectively answer the question, **“What does Holy Living look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?”** Just as John Wesley sought to inspire people toward a practical theology, “The Land” invites people to experience discipleship as they care for the earth, harvest God’s gifts, and fill the souls and stomachs of their neighbors.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT:**

The Land is proposed for development on the 9.7 acres of Conference-owned property located on the SE Corner of Powhaton Rd and (future) Exposition Avenue. Due to the current timeline of the surrounding development, the faith community development is organized into 2 Phases. Each phase is estimated to extend over 3 to 5 years.

Phase 1 reflects our desire to create a sense of community alongside the development of the residential neighborhood. Phase 1 is primarily agriculture in nature featuring the planting of the 1.5 acre edible labyrinth and 50-80 fruit trees sourced by a 13, 000 gallon water cistern and cared for by a full time Farm Manager. To ensure safety, security, and sustainability of this project, a perimeter fence as well as a 35 parking space lot, 5 of which would be handicap accessible, are also key elements of this phase. Phase 1 also includes a highly efficient irrigation plan that has the potential to make this project a model for water conservation. In addition, it is the agricultural emphasis of Phase 1 that makes this project a prime candidate for a variety of community partnerships, educational opportunities, and promotional possibilities for the incoming residents of the Sandy Creek Neighborhood.

The further development of the project in Phase 2 is contingent on the accessibility to a water tap and additional utilities to the property. Since the purchasing agreement of the property with Melcor includes the extension of utilities to the property as they develop, the development of building structures will occur as utilities become available. Our intention is to utilize Phase 2 for our initial building of the Cathedral Greenhouse, as well as the development of the children’s playground, and the extension of the parking spaces and drive to adequately meet the needs of community participants. The Farm Stand and Bunk House will come at the conclusion of Phase 2 and will replace a refrigerated truck that will be used to store the harvested fruit and vegetation beginning in Phase 1.

The following chart outlines the structures, programmatic purpose, and timeline to highlight the cohesiveness of the physical development as a means to assist our faith community in its mission to align what we say we believe as Christians with how we behave in our everyday lives:

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE	PROGRAMMATIC PURPOSE	LAUNCH TIMELINE
<b>Edible Labyrinth<sup>1</sup></b> 1.5 Acres/5ft wide, crushed granite, handicap accessible pathway to central large gathering space/.2.4 miles of pathway/.8 acres of in-ground growing beds	Laboratory for spiritual growth in the garden/Community education/School partnerships/Holiday and Sacramental celebrations/Missional and Educational Opportunities	Pending completion of the City of Aurora Development Process PHASE ONE GOAL: Spring 2017
<b>Outdoor Amphitheatre</b> Seating for up to 200 people/fire pit and platform/Handicap accessible paths	Outdoor worship services, community concerts, and Christian educational opportunities	PHASE ONE GOAL: Spring 2018
<b>Cathedral Greenhouse</b> 4,000-9,500 SF/multi-functional space for worship services and year round growing of produce	Worship services and small group gatherings, educational classes for neighborhood groups	PHASE TWO: TBD Pending incoming of utilities by Melcor and financial resources *No sooner than 2019
<b>Barn/Bunk House</b> 6,000-8,000SF/2-story bldg. w/ commercial kitchen/seating for 250 with tables/accommodations for groups of up to 20 people to stay overnight	Facility for larger gatherings, congregational celebrations, school field trips, overnight mission trips, fundraising events, weddings and memorial receptions, conferences	PHASE TWO: TBD Pending incoming of utilities by Melcor and financial resources *No sooner than 2019

## FAITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The Land seeks to exemplify holy living in our farming practices, our building infrastructure, and our utilization of that which the Land produces. The commitment to the continual exploration of this question results in continually offering people of all ages, races, classes, ethnicities, and sexual orientations a place of belonging. To cultivate a culture of sustainable hospitality, the Land offers the following three interchangeable and fluid levels of engagement:

---

<sup>1</sup> A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path with one entrance and one exit. The labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world and have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. “The Land” labyrinth is unique in its utilization of low growing vegetation as a means to define the pathways.

## **INVITATIONAL:**

### The Land as Community Supported Agriculture

The Land features over 2 acres of vegetation which makes up a 2.4 mile labyrinth. Members of The Land CSA buy the seeds at the beginning of the season and in exchange receive boxes of fresh vegetables at harvest time. CSA projects encourage volunteerism of members and as a result teach members about healthy eating and urban farming. In this particular case, the CSA has a unique spiritual functionality innate to its landscape reminding us of the source of our nutrients and our place in the story of creation.

### The Land as a Neighborhood Gathering Place

The outdoor amphitheater located at the far southeast end of the property gathers neighbors together for summer concerts, educational programming, and harvest festivals.

### The Land as Sanctuary

Several dirt trails, a scattered fruit tree orchard, the attraction of the edible labyrinth, the openness of the children's 'Creation Garden,' and the reflective invitation of the brick prayer wall all exist to welcome people into sacred space on their own terms. Scripture calls us to "welcome the weary, the tired, and the broken." The Land reflects the openness of God's invitation to be known as Beloved as we work, laugh, wander, and pray.

## **WORSHIPING:**

### The Land as Church

As Christian participants at The Land we strive to worship with our lives by practicing intentionality around our use of God's creation and our connection to all living things. We gather weekly in the 5,500 sq. ft. Cathedral Greenhouse to name this reality. In this sacred space, sacraments support the ongoing journey of realigning the everyday behaviors of the individual with the evolving values of this community of disciples. We share stories as a means of grace which demonstrate the complexities of holy living that birth both struggle and reconciliation, insight and confusion. We release these struggles and lift up our joys in song and prayer, always conscience of our desire that God would transform us into a community of hope for a new way of living in the world that honors creation through simplicity and sustainability.



## **DISCIPLESHIP:**

### The Land as Leadership

The Path is a small group intensive program designed to connect the seeking individual more fully to their call and their community. Before entering into this four month program, each Path participant works with a Path Guide to create a covenant which articulates their commitment to (1) participate in weekly service in a context which explores their sense of calling (2) attend a monthly meeting with their Path Guide (3) participate in a daily practice of a spiritual ritual and (4) participate in a small group that offers grace-filled accountability and a sacred space to process the learnings of the program. After the completion of The Path season each participant is offered the opportunity to become a Path Guide, a facilitator of a small group, to re-enter the program in a new group with a refined covenant, or to enter into a period of Sabbath. The purpose of the Path is to inspire and support the development of Spirit-led leaders at The Land and beyond.

The vision of the land ultimately deepens, widens, and unsettles the way Christians have traditionally worshipped over the last several decades. ***Worship at The Land is defined as the way we live our lives;*** harvesting food together, sharing meals together, celebrating Sacraments together. Just as John Wesley taught us to “pray without ceasing,” the vision of the Land challenges us to worship with the whole of our lives. Worship is not something we do; worship becomes the way in which we live. The organizational structure of The Land cultivates this cooperative journey of spiritual discovery through agricultural practice, regular celebrations, and a discipleship process.

## **What are your target groups?**

### **GEOGRAPHIC REGION**

Individuals and families residing in Southeast Aurora who are looking for a worship community.

The proposed location for the new faith community is currently located less than 1 mile from the Murphy Creek Golf Course, Murphy Creek K-8 School, and the Murphy Creek Residential Neighborhood. Less than 4 miles from our site is the Adonea Residential Neighborhood. In addition, the Harmony Residential Neighborhood will include a large recreation center, three schools, and 1,400 single family units all within the 1,100 acres surrounding the future church's parcel. The Harmony development is currently in its Framework Development Plan stage with the City Planning Department and estimates breaking ground on the development's first house within the next 12 months. The 80018 zip code area in which our property is located is projected to increase in population by 24.8% over the next five years. This is 17% above the projections for overall state growth in Colorado. The closest established United Methodist Churches to the proposed new church site are Burns UMC (9 miles), First United Methodist (10 miles), and

Smoky Hill United Methodist Church (10 miles). This average distance is also true for non-denominational and other mainline denominational churches, with the nearest existing faith communities averaging 8 miles between their location and our site.

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND AFFINITY GROUP:**

Individuals and families interested in or actively invested in the local food movement in Colorado.

There is a growing trend (particularly among people 35 and younger) toward both envisioning and participating in alternative, sustainable ways of living. Such commitments toward sustainable living are particularly visible in the local foods movement in Denver. On a local government level, Mayor Michael Hancock's "2020 Sustainability Plan" has laid out a community goal that by the year 2020 at least 20% of the food purchased for consumption in Denver will be produced and/or processed entirely within Colorado. Ambitious goals such as those reflected in the Denver Mayor's "2020 Sustainability Plan" have led national forums on agricultural sustainability to predict that within the next ten years Denver will become "the Silicon Valley of Urban Agricultural." The grassroots and governmental interest in sourcing more food locally, eradicating food deserts in Colorado, and increasing agricultural literacy are resulting in an increase of funding opportunities, a surge in community engagement, and the ongoing amending of city ordinance and policy. Capitalizing on this interest in social responsibility and sustainability, The Land offers a spiritual community that, motivated and sustained by the Life and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, gathers to grow, harvest, and share fresh, local produce with our neighbors in need.

#### **What type of Faith Community are you trying to plant?**

**Sister Church Strategy** – Hope United Methodist Church is currently in an intentional discernment process to determine how it is being called to serve as an anchoring, sponsoring or parenting force in launching the new faith community. Currently, a congregant is organizing a team of 50 Hope members to pray for the partnership between the Land and Hope, SPRC is exploring a alteration in Rev. Stephanie's job description that allocate a portion of her time to be spent working on developing the new faith community, and Hope members are hosting home gatherings to learn more about The Land and to provide feedback around what a partnership might look like beginning officially in July of 2016. A vote will take place at the January 2016 Hope Ad Council and Charge Conference regarding Rev. Stephanie's transition to a ½ split between The Land and Hope UMC.

#### **Core Values – RELATIONAL, PROPHETIC**

**Ministry Structure** – To date, a group of ten individuals specializing in various areas and representing multiple sectors of the religious and development sector gather on a quarterly basis functioning as a development team. Within that development team is a core team of four individuals who are committed to the hands-on work of launching the faith community when the timeline permits. Most of the work is currently done in small teams and

shared with the group as a whole at the Leadership meetings. For example, Ron, Stephanie and Greg regularly work with contractors and City Officials while Patti and Don will be working with Conference Committees and local church partnerships. Pending Cabinet approval, the first clergy appointment would be half time and would be responsible for cultivation of the spiritual community. In addition, a farm manager, Reuben Gregory, would be hired to launch the agricultural development. Oversight of the farm manager position would reside with the Land's Board of Directors while the clergy oversight depends upon the specific arrangement regarding appointment status.

## **TIMELINE FOR THE FIRST 18 MONTHS w/BENCHMARKS**

### **GOAL 1: Strategically communicate the vision of the new faith community to identified target audiences.**

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Contract with a brand consultant and designer to create a brand identity (logo and color scheme).
2. Contract with a visual story consultant and web content creator to develop the visual story of "The Land" that can be translated across various web based platforms:
  - a. Website, Facebook Page, Instagram Account, Google+, Twitter, YouTube.
3. Strategize with web marketing consultant about reaching target audiences and the best web platforms and marketing avenues for sharing the visual story of "The Land" with target audiences.
4. Create clear and strategic fundraising funnels from all online platforms that lead to online fundraising platforms for initial crowd funding capital campaign.
5. Utilize branding assets to create printed materials for displays at local, relevant summits, conferences, and speaking engagements.
  - a. Display boards, business cards, tri-fold pamphlets, and donation envelopes.

#### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Easily recognizable logo that matches identity of "The Land."
2. Visual assets that accurately represent the story of "The Land" and engage target audiences across multiple web based platforms in emotionally compelling ways.
3. Clear idea of online target audiences and best platforms and practices for reaching audiences.
4. Fundraising funnels from "The Land's" web based platforms that lead users to its fundraising page.
5. Print based assets that match the brand identity of "The Land" to be displayed and handed out.

**GOAL 2: Form tangible connections between the vision of “The Land” and identified target audiences.**

ACTIVITIES

1. Attend local neighborhood meetings to share the vision with residents as a means to solicit and incorporate relevant feedback.
2. Schedule one-on-one's with city council members, school leaders, church leaders, and local non-profit leaders to discuss the vision of the new faith community and to explore the possibility of mutually beneficial partnerships.
3. Visit local United Methodist Churches to share the vision of the new faith community as a means to gather volunteers for mission day projects, fundraising activities, and special outdoor worship activities.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. At least one organizational partnership in Southeast Aurora.
  - a. \* Ideally, this partnership will be with a local school serving as the recipient for the fresh produce grown on the property.
2. A minimum of one representative from a neighborhood group in Southeast Aurora on “The Land” Board of Directors.
3. Financial and/or volunteer commitment to upcoming mission day projects from two United Methodist congregations.

**GOAL 3: Create an initial physical presence on the property in SE Aurora.**

ACTIVITIES

1. Completion of the CSP with the City of Aurora.
2. Installation of signage on property to identify the incoming presence of a new faith community.
  - a. Obtain sign permit from the city.
  - b. Contract with local sign company.
  - c. Contract to install sign(s) in areas designated for highest visibility.
3. Installation of security fence on property perimeter.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Secured perimeter from vandal, wildlife, and cattle.
2. Obtain an address and business licensure from the City of Aurora.
3. Identifiable presence established for persons driving to the property.

**GOAL 4: Organize opportunities for onsite participation in the unfolding vision and mission of ‘The Land’ worshipping community.**

ACTIVITIES

1. Hold four seasonal, sacramental worship gatherings on the property throughout the year that will be the initial infrastructure for gathering as the physical development advances.
2. Establish a core team that meets monthly to discern implementation of the vision of the worshipping community that complements its current physical site development.
3. Witness the expression of leadership roles of core team members in tangible ways through the creation of a transparent process of shared responsibility and mutual accountability for congregational development and outreach.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Establish a rhythm for our life in worship inclusive of regular sacramental celebrations and invitational life toward spiritual growth in small groups.
2. Organize the Core Team to function as the primary model of spiritual growth and leadership development for the new faith community. Specific markers would be to integrate two new members to the original Core Team (Becca Boone, Reuben Gregory, and Greg Laudenslager) by the Fall of 2016.
3. Core team members actively participating in visible leadership roles in the worship and work of “The Land.”

**GOAL 5: Establish and nurture spiritual community online as physical property develops.**

ACTIVITIES

1. Personal and marketed invitation – Personally invite network of friends and acquaintances to join and participate in online community through word of mouth, local press releases, invitations to online partners, personal emails, and personal Facebook posts and messages. Use Facebook advertising to invite targeted audience to join and participate in online community.
2. Sharing the story of “The Land” – Use website/blog, Facebook, email blats, and YouTube hosted videos to share the story of “The Land.”
3. Relationship and community building – Engage and interact with website/blog, Facebook, and YouTube followers.

4. Facilitating spiritual education and growth opportunities – Turn theological underpinnings of “The Land” project into teachings, sermons, and online workshops, accessible as Google Hangout events, audio and/or video files, short devotionals, e-books, and slide share presentations.
5. Facilitate live online prayer and/or group discussion events – Organize and invite online users to participate in online prayer sessions and small group discussions based on actions and assets created from number 4.

#### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. The personal and marketed invitations will create a base of online users that will seed “The Land’s” online physical spiritual community during the interim period of the site’s development. (This online spiritual community will continue to provide a point of spiritual connection for those who face various personal obstacles prohibiting their physical presence on “The Land” even after development is complete).
  - a. Five hundred Facebook page followers within 6 months of social media launch.
  - b. Five percent follower engagement rate with 25% of postings in the 6 months.
2. The story of “The Land” will focus, inspire and mobilize a base network of individual users toward relationship building and community.
3. The spiritual education and growth opportunities will facilitate opportunities for the engaged community to gain trust, support and grow together, becoming a community of believers.

## DESCRIBE YOUR LAUNCH TEAM AND OTHER ASSETS AVAILABLE TO YOU

### 2015-2016 LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

*\*\*The Development Team is organized by Rev. Stephanie Price and meets on a quarterly basis. The Team supports the development of the vision of The Land faith community. In addition the Board provides general financial oversight including but not limited to identifying fundraising/grant opportunities as well as working outside of the designated meetings to complete tasks in areas that each member specializes in.*

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION
<b>Rev. Patti Agnew</b> UMC Pastor, St Paul's United Methodist Church Colorado Springs	Board Member of the New Church Development Team for the Conference  Expert in New Church Development	<a href="mailto:Pattiagnew3@gmail.com">Pattiagnew3@gmail.com</a> 303-960-5257
<b>Rev. Andy Dunning</b> Executive Pastor, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church	Expert in Fundraising and Community Outreach	<a href="mailto:adunning@st-andrew-umc.com">adunning@st-andrew-umc.com</a> 720-443-3916 303-794-2683 x153
<b>Rev. Don Bird</b> Senior Pastor, Hope UMC Greenwood Village, CO	Sister Church Liaison	<a href="mailto:Don.bird@hope-umc.org">Don.bird@hope-umc.org</a> 303-779-1040
<b>Ron Skarka</b> Principal at Property Entitlement Solutions Aurora, CO	Volunteer Project Consultant for Development	<a href="mailto:RGS1050@aol.com">RGS1050@aol.com</a> 303-726-8034
<b>Greg Laudenslager (Core Team)</b> President or Laudenslager, Inc. Golden, CO	Project Consultant for Landscape Architect	<a href="mailto:Greg.Laudenslager@gmail.com">Greg.Laudenslager@gmail.com</a> 303-549-2700
<b>Reuben Gregory (Core Team)</b> Food Access Coordinator, MetroCaring Denver, CO	Project Consultant for Urban Farming, Outreach and Education	<a href="mailto:reubengregory@me.com">reubengregory@me.com</a> 303-638-2375
<b>Becca Boone (Core Team)</b> Pastry Chef at Herman's Kitchen Coordinator at Arvada UMC Denver, CO	Iliiff Alum, Educator, Entrepreneur and Chef	<a href="mailto:Boone.becca@gmail.com">Boone.becca@gmail.com</a> 214-549-4745
<b>Frank Garred</b> Hope UMC Lay Leader Aurora, CO	Board Member of The United Methodist Foundation	<a href="mailto:frankgarred@comcast.net">frankgarred@comcast.net</a> 720-389-9558
<b>Ken Cronk</b> Farmer Woodrow, CO	Board of Directors, Denver Metro Ministries RMCUMC Conference Trustees	<a href="mailto:krcronk@gmail.com">krcronk@gmail.com</a> 970-554-0106

**\*ADDITIONAL CONSULTANTS (NOT CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

NAME AND ASSOCIATION	CURRENT CONSULTATION ROLE
<b>Michael Chavez</b> Professor of Graphic Design, Colorado Institute of Art	Logo and Design Work
<b>John Morrison</b> Owner, Presence Plus Inc.	Strategic social media marketing outreach, online fundraising strategist, and website content creator
<b>John F. Dougherty P.E., Ing., STS, Alim</b> Licensed and Registered Professional Engineer <u>Managing Partner</u> - Rocking JbarA Ranch Partnerships: <u>Board Member</u> : Arapahoe County Board of Review <u>Board Member Engineer</u> : City of Aurora Building Code, Contractors Appeals & Standards Board <u>Member</u> : Aurora Zoning Code Update, Community Focus Group	Ongoing consultation around local water and gas issues; particularly as it pertains the current utilization of property for 'hydraulic fracturing' by Conoco Phillips. Additional consultation regarding City Codes, Regulations, and political processes has also been offered on an ongoing basis.
<b>Erin Jones</b> Paralegal Independent Consultant	Legal Consultation for Non-Profit Incorporation in the State of Colorado

**\*CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	LIASION TO ORGANIZATION	NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP
<b>Rocky Mountain Farmers Union</b> 7900 E. Union Ave. Suite 200 Denver, Colorado 80237 <a href="http://Rmfu.org">Rmfu.org</a> 303-752-5800	Bill Stevenson, RMFU Foundation Director	Fiscal as well as legal, agricultural, and promotional support. RMFU has assisted us in participating in many local food venues and continues to connect us to viable funding sources.
<b>Hope United Methodist Church</b> 5101 S Dayton St. Greenwood Village, CO 80111 <a href="http://Hopechangeslives.org">Hopechangeslives.org</a> 303-779-1040	Don Bird, Senior Pastor  Charlie Ledbetter, Ad Council Chair	Support of clergy leadership; currently in a process of intentional discernment around the 2016 sponsorship of Rev. Stephanie's half time appointment to The Land.
<b>City of Aurora</b> 15151 E. Alameda Prkwy Aurora, CO 80012 <a href="http://Auroragov.org">Auroragov.org</a> 303-739-7000	Libby Tart-Schoenfelder Senior Planning Engineer  Jacob Cox Planning Manager	Ongoing consultation around the development process; connections to neighborhood organizations; articulation that this project will be a model for City's all across the nation

		regarding water conservation and food production.
<b>MELCOR Developments Ltd.</b>  Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) <a href="http://Melcor.ca">Melcor.ca</a>	James Spehalski, Local Project Developer	Consideration of The Land's incorporation into their current FDP, commitment to bring in utilities to Conference property
<b>Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church (Cabinet, Trustees, and NCDC)</b>  6110 GREENWOOD PLAZA BLVD. GREENWOOD VILLAGE CO 80111 <a href="http://Rmcumc.com">Rmcumc.com</a> 303-733-3736	Dr. Rev Melanie Rosa, District Superintendent  Jeff Rainwater, NCDC Chair  Ken Cronk, RM CUMC Metro Ministries	Cabinet support of half time appointment pending Hope's financial sponsorship in July 2016; NCDC Funding for feasibility study and pre-application prep costs; Trustees blessing over the utilization of the property and access to the 45K currently in the Denver Metro Ministries account.
<b>DENVER URBAN MINISTRIES</b>  1717 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80012 <a href="http://Denum.org">Denum.org</a> 303-355-4896	Tammy Mulligan, Executive Director	Programmatic partnership with Denum's urban education program will offset labor costs in Phase 1 of development; one of the organizational recipients of the fresh foods grown by the faith community.