

The Sandhill Project  
A Quaker Witness. A Biblical Ethic. A Brethren Outreach  
Seeking ministry partner

The Sandhill Project is a leading of a Quaker family residing in Barry County, Michigan intended to embody John 15: 12-17. This Christ-centered ministry seeks to provide a peace church and care-ethic ministry opportunities to the town of Hastings, Mi and the surrounding county. We are inviting future or present ministers and pastors to join us in residency and develop skills necessary to building future bi-vocational pastorates or entrepreneurial ministries that grow from the establishment of a consistent revenue stream.

The Sandhill Project combines the resources, gifts and skills of Scot Miller and Jennifer Seif with 13 acres of land and livestock. Miller is an ordained Church of the Brethren minister, with professional skills related to community organizing and outreach, crisis response, substance abuse counseling, educational opportunities, jail ministries, and theological and biblical ethics. Seif is a midwife, birth doula, nursing and mothering mentor, and community organizer committed to woman and child health and justice. The vision of a The Sandhill Project coordinates a farming resource for revenue, bi-vocational experience, community food justice and outreach, and an inspirational economic model. The city of Hastings and surrounding Barry County is very rural, politically and socially conservative, and is home to nationalist political groups. There is evidence of a small LGBTQ community, and progressive individuals dedicated to development of biking resources and environmental issues.

Barry County has a small hospital, extraordinary hunting and fishing, hiking and camping among low and gently rolling glacial hills and wetlands. It lays between Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo Friends Meetings (FGC) and Kalamazoo, Freeport, Grand Rapids, and Lansing Church of the Brethren. These cities offer opportunities for interaction and attending benefits related to urban experiences. The Sandhill Project is looking for one or two individuals, a small family, seminary student or one considering seminary, who has an interest in exploring the following options or opportunities: A firm and peculiar witness to the lived ministry of Jesus and the embodiment of biblical messianic ethics. A firm witness to non-violence, Urban-Rural diplomacy, Anti-racism and privilege witness, LGBTQ outreach and support.

Individuals are expected to help with farm work and sustaining the food and agriculture aspects of the ministry. Income can be earned by partners from the agricultural project which they engage in. This opportunity also perceives an opportunity for partners to pursue online seminary degrees through the Earlham School of Religion or Bethany Seminary (such a relationship is desired, not necessary). Other particulars will be worked through in covenant with Sandhill and supportive congregations., who will be invited to assume corporate oversight of the project and support replication.

The Sandhill Project invites and welcomes persons of color, refugees or immigrants regardless of documentation status, and same-sex couples who are covenanted in partnership, married, or responsible in tandem for children. LGTBQ individuals are invited. Participants must be comfortable with livestock slaughter (you may reject participation in slaughter or butchering), diets that include meat consumption, and the use of firearms for farm-related purposes only. Partners must be committed to non-violence and expressing truth in love toward neighbors and enemies, Democrats, Green Party members, Republicans, Tea Party conservatives, and all others as persons to be served by the outreach. The Sandhill Project reads the text through the lenses of radical democratic witness. We hold to communitarian values, and a maintenance of boundaries between the church and electoral politics. The Sandhill Project is politically representative of John 15: 12-17 and other biblical pericopes that can be challenged or added corporately during the partnership.