



Board Member Application

Bethlehem Farm relies on our community for advice and support in all areas of our cornerstones: prayer, simplicity, service, and community. One way to foster the mission of Bethlehem Farm is to use your talents and professional background while serving on the Board of Directors. The Board sets overall policy for the Farm, charts the strategic plan, approves the budget, engages in fundraising, hires the Director, and supports the Caretakers. We invite you to consider serving the Farm by serving on the Board. Please fill out the following information, which will be used to nominate and elect the next slate of board candidates. Thank you!

Contact Information:

Full Name:_____. Preferred Phone:_____ [☐] Home [☐] Cell [☐] Work

Preferred email address: _____

Home Address: _____

Work Address:_____

(if applicable) _____

Contact information is maintained for Bethlehem Farm use only and not shared with any outside parties

Background Information:

Profession:_____.

Current Employer:_____

Where did you attend high school and/or college?: _____

What gifts and talents are you willing to share with Bethlehem Farm (use the back of the paper if you need more space):

Please list some of the community groups and organizations you are involved in:

Please include any information that you would like about your family:

How did you become involved with Bethlehem Farm? Briefly describe your history of involvement.

Please describe your philosophy of serving on a nonprofit board. Why do you want to serve on Bethlehem Farm's board?

Bethlehem Farm teaches sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. Please share your experience with and thoughts on the value of sustainability and care for God's creation.

Board Commitments:

Membership on the board includes being legally, fiscally and morally responsible for an organization. Are you willing to take on these responsibilities? Y/N

The Board meets at Bethlehem Farm three times each year (for most of a day) and by conference call in for the winter meeting. Can you commit to making at least 2 face-to-face meetings and the conference calls each year? Y/N

Board terms last three years and may be renewed for one additional three year term. Can you commit to a three-year term? Y/N

Bethlehem Farm relies on participation fees and donations to meet its operating budget. It is difficult to convince donors to contribute financially to support our mission if the board is not setting the example. Are you willing to make a yearly contribution to support the Farm? Y/N

Bethlehem Farm Mission Statement:

Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives, through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. We invite volunteers to join us in living out the Gospel cornerstones of prayer, community, simplicity and service.

The "Welcome Home Spirit" of Bethlehem Farm: All are Welcome in this Place

Bethlehem Farm values a spirit of "Welcome Home" among the members of this community as an integral part of our Christian witness, specifically the gospel cornerstones of prayer, simplicity, community, and service. We value the uniqueness of all persons as God's creatures. We welcome all people, regardless of age, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, gender, religion, political affiliation, income, marital status, familial status, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, & military status, for example, precisely because of Christ's calling to treat others as we desire to be treated. We value vulnerable or minority members of this community as we value all members of this community. We condemn harassment of any kind, and our policies prohibit any such acts. We intentionally create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth in which none are strangers and all may flourish.

Note: You may also wish to review our statement on [Inclusion and Catholic Social Teaching](#)

Please read the statements about the "welcome home" spirit and mission above. What do you see as the role of a Bethlehem Farm Board Member in further realizing these two statements of belief? What resonates with or challenges you as you consider being a supportive member of an organization providing a warm "welcome home" to everyone?

As a board member, how would you be able to support and strengthen our organizational commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including our efforts to become an anti-racist organization? What excites or challenges you about this work?

Our Catholic identity is important to us. We recognize and value diverse viewpoints and expressions of Catholicism within our Board membership and the broader BF community. BF does not require Board Members, Caretakers, or Participants to be Catholic to encourage diversity and local representation. What is your experience of the Catholic identity of BF? Are you willing to support BF's Catholic identity and mission even if you are not Catholic?

Do you have any questions for us?

We appreciate your willingness to share your gifts with us. We will contact you after discussing your application.