

## **431-109 Welcome to the Nehemiah House Men's Homeless Shelter**

In 1988, The Nehemiah Project was organized by representatives of area churches creating a ministry to those who are homeless and desire to rebuild lives that have been broken by difficult circumstances. Those who come to **The Nehemiah Project** understand this is a Christian ministry operated according to the principles of the Bible, The Word of God. The houses are the Lord's houses and those who serve The Nehemiah Project are His servants. Accordingly, we invite perspective guests to **carefully read** the following covenants (rules) by which we minister and live together in a Christian community of mutual respect and assistance. You will be asked to sign an application form indicating your willingness to abide by these covenants during your residency at one of The Nehemiah Project homes.

### **Covenants of The Nehemiah Project, Nehemiah House:**

1. All guests must be 18 years of age, and or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
2. No one may possess/use illegal drugs, marijuana or alcohol at any time while residing at this shelter. This includes medical marijuana. At the Innkeepers discretion you may be required to take a drug test or a breathalyzer.
3. The Nehemiah Project staff reserve the right to conduct searches of the bedrooms or of individual's possessions. This will happen at the discretion of The Nehemiah Project director.
4. All prescription and non-prescription medications must be turned in to the innkeeper upon entering the shelter. All medications must be written on the medication sheet and stored in the office.
5. No Smoking, vaping or e-cigarettes are permitted in the house. Smoking is confined to the designated smoking area. Fire code prevents the burning of candles, incense, or other flammable items in the houses.
6. Foul or offensive language is not permitted in the house or on the property.
7. No women and/or children are to be on the property of the men's shelter and no men are permitted on the property of the Mary Margret Women's Shelter without authorization.
8. Starting a dating relationship with another Nehemiah Project guest is not allowed. Men and women should not be alone together at any time.
9. No dangerous weapons of any kind are permitted on The Nehemiah Project property. Any potential weapon must be surrendered to the Innkeeper when you arrive. Items will be returned when you leave.
10. Violence, threats, or disrespect directed toward staff or other guests will not be tolerated.
11. Borrowing or lending money is not permitted between guests or between innkeepers and guests.
12. Offensive or pornographic material is not permitted on the property. If you are not sure about what is in your possession, please ask the director to make the call. This includes tarot cards, Ouija boards, or other cult-based practices.
13. Phones and other electronics are to be used appropriately and should not be disturbing to other guests as they try to rest.

## Scheduled Operating Hours

1. **The House is open from 5pm to 8am daily.**
2. During the day the house is closed. You may use Hope Hall during posted hours. If you need to use the hall outside of posted hours for meetings or other necessities pertaining to finding resources, you must get permission from your house supervisor. Otherwise, you must leave The Nehemiah Project property.
3. **You must check-in between 5:00pm and 6:00pm daily.** If you have an acceptable reason for being late, such as work requirements, etc. you must call and inform the innkeeper on duty before 6:00pm or previously inform the Nehemiah House staff.
4. If you leave the property after dinner, you must be back at the Nehemiah House by **10:00pm each evening.**
5. If you require an overnight away from the house, you need to ask the director at least three days in advance and fill out the proper paperwork. Failure to return to the Nehemiah House each day (without prior approval) is cause for immediate dismissal.
6. **House lights are out from 11:00pm until 6:30am daily.** *No radios, showers, laundry, loud conversations, smoking, etc. are permitted during this time.* Guests are not to be up wandering through the house.
7. **The House closes at 8:00am (EST) daily.** All guests are **required** to leave the house at this time.

## Personal Hygiene and House Cleanliness

1. Guests are requested to shower **daily**. This is for your health and comfort of others. Personal hygiene items are available. When the house is full, bathroom time will be limited to 15 minutes, and it would be appreciated if some would take showers in the morning and others in the evening. Please leave the bathroom clean after use.
2. Each guest will be assigned **daily** chores for the care, comfort, and cleanliness of the House and other guests.
3. Each guest is responsible for his own personal laundry. Towels and bed linen are supplied and must be laundered weekly. Laundry soap is provided. Towels and wash clothes should be properly hung after use for drying in your assigned room.

## Meals and Food

1. Dinner is served at 6pm each evening. If you cannot be present for the evening meal because of work requirements, etc., a meal can be set aside for you upon proper notification to the innkeeper on duty before 6:00pm. Evening meals are provided/prepared by The Nehemiah Project. Guests are **not** permitted to "fix/cook their own thing."
2. Guests are expected to be present at the dinner table during dinnertime, even if they are choosing not to partake.
3. Breakfast consists of cereal, toast, coffee, or other items available in the breakfast cupboard. Guests are expected to prepare their own breakfast and clean up the kitchen and put their dishes in the dishwasher after use.
4. Lunches are provided daily free of charge at various locations in Petoskey, please see the innkeeper for times and locations. Pack lunches can also be made to take to work using leftovers.
5. Snacks are available in the snack cupboard. Guests should **not** be spending money for "junk food" or "fast food". Money earned is to be reserved for future housing and other necessities.
6. Purchased food brought into the House by guests will be considered "food for all" unless **special dietary needs** are recognized.
7. **All food** and drinks are to be consumed in the kitchen or dining room. Food and drinks are **not** to be consumed or stored in guest rooms.

## Bible Study / Work Schedule / Miscellaneous

1. Bible study occurs 7:30pm each **Tuesday** evening at the House and each **Thursday** evening at 7:00pm at Hope Hall. We highly encourage you to participate. If you choose not to attend a study, you will not be allowed to hang out in the house while study is going on. This is for safety and security reasons.
2. Guests who are employed are required to enter work hours on the work schedule form, which is posted in the house.
3. Guests are to dress modestly and appropriately while on the property and at Nehemiah Project functions.
4. When you are no longer a guest of The Nehemiah Project, any personal items or clothing remaining unclaimed for more than 30 calendar days, can and will be discarded at the discretion of the director.