

## REVISED BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR HEARKEN HOUSE MINISTRIES PROGRAM

*Hearken House Ministries (HHM) believes that all people are created by God for the purpose of honoring God in their life activities and loving one another as Christ loved them. Believing that meaningful work, supportive spiritual community environments, and peaceful rest, enable opportunities for all residents to pursue their God-given life potential. Towards this goal, HHM, operates as a Christian based residential "Therapeutic Sober Living Reentry Program," offering men seeking a "home plan" supervised housing for reentry from current incarceration for 6 to 12 months and longer if needed. HHM Programs offer supportive mentoring and spiritual training that promotes physical, emotional, and freedom from self-gratifying addictions and self-defeating lifestyles to becoming contributing citizens of both the Church and local community.*

1. **Must be a male.** Our ministry is small and does not have the facilities to accommodate more than one gender. Also, we house only sex offenders, including those designated as "sexually violent predators" and are therefore not permitted to house a gender other than male.
2. **Must be incarcerated within a Pennsylvania State Prison or County Jail.** We can not consider out-of-state candidates for our program unless they have already obtained approval to transfer from their state to Pennsylvania. Obtaining approval to transfer from another state to Pennsylvania is not something in which we can assist, nor can we provide a pre-approved home plan to a candidate so he may use our program/address to initiate the transfer process. We would be required to hold a bed space for the candidate during the lengthy process period (3 to 6 months), and there is no guarantee the candidate would receive approval by Parole.
3. **Must be on State Parole or regular State Probation or County Parole (for at least 12 months after re-entry).** Due to different accountability requirements with individuals on parole or regular probation and those not on parole or regular probation, we can no longer accommodate individuals not on parole or regular probation. If an individual not on parole or regular probation performs an action he is authorized to perform or possesses an item he is authorized to possess but those on Parole or regular probation are not authorized to perform or possess, those on parole or regular probation may face consequences nevertheless, including being returned to prison or jail.
4. **Must not be on state special probation or county probation.** Violators of state special probation or county probation requirements go before a judge, not a parole/probation officer, to determine the penalty for the committed violation. Depending upon the violation committed, the judge has the authority to shut down the entire half-way house, causing other residents to be displaced and possibly returned to prison or jail.
5. **Must be a sex offender.** Due to different accountability requirements with individuals designated as a sex offender and those not designated as a sex offender, we can no longer accommodate non sex offenders. If an individual not designated as a sex offender performs an action he is authorized to perform or possesses an item he is authorized to possess but those designated as a sex offender are not authorized to perform or possess, those designated as a sex offender may face consequences nevertheless, including being returned to prison or jail.
6. **Must possess the physical and mental capacity to perform manual labor and maintain employment.** Hearken House Ministry is self-funded (not funded by any state or federal agency) and must create its own income to support its program. Employment in the business community is mandatory in order to pay required lodging fees. Therefore, participants must commit to our policy of seeking employment and becoming employed within 3 months of entering into the HHM program. On a case by case basis, exceptions may be made for persons with disabilities who are unable to work and who have sufficient guaranteed income to cover monthly lodging and living expenses.

**Candidates must meet all the above qualifications.**