

Open Letter to the Pastors

Considering Committing to Join “The Church Hammers” or “Tools of Faith” Supporting Habitat for Humanity.

Dear Pastors and Congregation,

I was recently asked what it meant for a church to be committed to helping support Habitat for Humanity through “The Church Hammers” (in Emmet County) or “The Tools of Faith (in Charlevoix County). In other words what were our (Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity) expectations for the participating congregations? When a Pastor commits their congregation to one of these groups we know first of all that they are concerned about safe, decent and affordable housing for those in need in our communities so we do know they see it as a ministry calling for which we are grateful. Supporting that ministry then is no different than supporting any other outreach ministry in your congregation. We do ask for the pastor to:

Designate at least one (more are always welcome) person to represent their church at our regular meetings. Sponsor one (1) fundraising event per year to support the ministry. Support us through the pulpit (asking for volunteers, giving updates, identifying potential partner families, announcement of events). Support us in your prayers.

Out of the group (Church Hammers, Tools of Faith) we select volunteer coordinators and building site supervisors (usually 4 or 5 of each) so the builds go smoothly.

Basically it costs approximately \$85,000.00, including the property, to build the homes with our partner families. For any one congregation in our area that would be cost prohibitive on an annual basis. Even for a group of churches is a considerable stretch. But for a group of churches organizing the ministry for our Christian communities in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, all members of our Christian communities have the opportunity and a means of supporting this important ministry.

So when a pastor commits their congregation to one of these groups what they are saying is “Yes, we will help! We can find or have members who are willing to volunteer, we can pray for you and we can do at least one fundraising event and help others in others with theirs.” In that way, you become a part of Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity’s Church Relations Committee, you build a stronger relationship with other congregations in our area and you are providing safe, decent and affordable shelter to those in need in our local community, maybe even from your congregation.

Thanks for your interest in this ministry and for more information please call 231-348-6926.

Sincerely,

Bob Houser, President - Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity