



MERE CHRISTIANITY FORUM

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Dear Potential Vista House Community Resident,

Thank you for your interest in living at Vista House! Hopefully the enclosed information will answer many of your questions. This is an opportunity to live with other young adults and students, to grow in your faith, and to explore a life well lived within a supportive covenant community during an exciting time in life.

Vista House is nestled among seven acres in Travelers Rest, and plays host to a 5 to 9 person intentional Christian community of young adults and college students. It is also home to our organic “Kierke-gaarden,” four chickens, and the MCF ministry offices. It is adjacent to the popular Swamp Rabbit Trail, is just over a mile from Furman University, a quick bike ride or walk to Travelers Rest, and a 15-minute drive to downtown Greenville.

The rate for a 9-month lease in 2020-2021 (August 15th - May 15th) is **\$775 monthly** per resident for a shared bedroom. This figure **INCLUDES** room, some meals, all utilities, internet access, lawn services, and house maintenance.

Please complete the online application (including the 2 narratives) no later than January 19th, 2020. Upon receipt of your application we will contact those persons you have listed as references. Therefore, please notify your referrers that we will likely be contacting them. We will then be contacting you to arrange a time to meet as soon as possible to talk about your interest in living at Vista House and answering any additional questions that you may have about life in intentional Christian community.

Decisions regarding the composition of the 2020-2021 community will be made by Mere Christianity Forum through consultation between the Executive Director, the members of the current community if appropriate, recommenders, and others working to ensure the continued mission, health, and vitality of Vista House.

Again, thank you for your interest in participating in the residential community experience at Mere Christianity Forum’s Vista House. Although life at Vista House comes with challenges and responsibilities, we believe that the opportunities for growth and service found in Christian community are well worth it!

Post Office Box 98 Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690 | www.fathreasontomfoolery.org | 864.834.2228

Mere Christianity Forum is a non-profit organization promoting the thoughtful exploration of Christian faith through conversation and community.

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If you have questions please send them to heather@faithreasontomfoolery.org

The online application can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEmqIG49efMyU9v1S55Fflz-yg3LG4Yth8mKMftElEXWh5Bg/viewform>

Best Regards,

Rimes McElveen

Rev. Rimes McElveen

Executive Director

Heather Wynn

Heather Wynn

Operations Coordinator

General Vista House Policies

I. Substances

- Residents must recognize the possible effects of the consumption of alcohol upon the community and Vista House. Therefore, consumption of alcohol is limited to those residents and guests above the legal drinking age, and should be limited to meals and other SMALL group gatherings. Prior approval by the MCF Executive Director must be obtained for alcohol consumed during larger gatherings or parties. Intoxication and sharing alcohol with underage persons are unacceptable.
- The smoking of tobacco is restricted to the outdoors and 50 feet away from any buildings.
- Consumption of ALL illegal substances on the Vista House property is strictly prohibited.

II. Relationships

- Romantic relations, or actions that could be interpreted as romantic/sexual, between community members is prohibited while living in community with one another.
- When outside romantic relationships are brought into the Vista House these interactions should be conducted with the utmost respect for Vista House, MCF, and fellow community members. For instance, this means significant others should stay (alone) in the guest room.

III. Community Responsibilities

- Residents will participate in weekday communal prayer.
- Residents will share weekly chores needed for Vista House, consisting of about 2-3 hours a week.
- Set up and attend the weekly community dinner at Vista House.
- Communicate community needs and developments to the MCF Staff and/or Executive Committee.
- Residents will conduct themselves according to the habits/practices traditionally associated with Christian virtues. Likewise it is the expectation of MCF that Vista House residents will conduct

themselves according to similar practices outside of Vista House as emissaries of the community.

- Residents will be fully present for the Orientation in August and Closing debrief in May
- We encourage you to have guests but please be sure to introduce them to the rest of the community. This means: alerting the rest of the community in advance, introducing the guest to each community member, and letting your guest know about Vista House, and its purpose. Residents and their guests should also be sensitive to such issues as noise, exclusivity, and possible roommates' concerns.

IV. Miscellaneous

- Pets are not allowed.
- Firearms Policy - we are a firearms free zone at Vista House. If guests come to visit, they are allowed to keep firearms in their vehicle if they have a proper permit to carry it, but they are not allowed otherwise on Vista House grounds or inside the house.
- The community is not authorized to alter these or other Vista House policies without the approval of the MCF's Executive Committee.