

John Calvin Apartments

Did you know that our Presbytery was instrumental in the development of the John Calvin Apartments in Hixson, right off Hwy. 153, close to Memorial Hospital North and the Northgate Mall? For many, thoughts of this apartment complex and its ministry have faded, so it may be time to spend a few moments refreshing our memories.

In 1980 - 1981, a group of Chattanooga Presbyterians decided it would be a wonderful thing to provide housing for the elderly members of our churches. Presbytery agreed to contribute ten thousand dollars and form a new, single asset non-profit for the distinct purpose of building housing for low income seniors. They submitted an application to HUD for their 202 Program and it was accepted. HUD built the five story complex consisting of 95 one-bedroom apartments with some dedicated to those that are mobility impaired.

John Calvin Apartments continue to operate under the authority of HUD and the current management company is Southeastern Property Management Company (SPM). The property and building are lovely, well maintained and ably presided over by Manager Sandy Eaves who has served in this position for many years. You would be well pleased if you stopped by for a visit.

Requirements to qualify as a resident: one must be a minimum of 62 years old or mobility impaired requiring a handicap accessible unit; household income must be less than or equal to "extremely low and very low income" and presently the maximum gross income for one person is \$19,050 and for two people it is \$21,750. Currently, only two apartments have double occupancy. The basic contract rent for each apartment is the same, and HUD pays 70% of the adjusted amount and the resident pays 30% of the adjusted amount. The resident's income minus out-of-pocket medical expenses determines the adjusted amount.

Each apartment has a small, efficiency kitchen so that residents can prepare their own meals. However, they occasionally share a potluck style meal in the commons room on the first floor. This room is also used for group projects, activities and educational or training programs related to healthy lifestyles and living, medical information and services, commodities food program, and more.

The current Presbyterian Homes of Chattanooga Board of Directors for the John Calvin Apartments are all members of Chattanooga area churches.

Northside Presbyterian: Carolyn Burnett, President; Leslie Morris, VP; and Clay Davis.

Northminster Presbyterian: Thomas Knight, Secretary; Lynne Shockley.

Rivermont Presbyterian: Paul Phillips

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Member at Large (non-voting): Jim Abel