



Stephen Minister Interest

Stephen Ministers are lay Christians selected, trained and supervised to provide effective Christian Care. After an initial 50 hours of training, Stephen Ministers are assigned a Care Receiver with whom they meet once a week for about an hour. This is most effective with weekly in-person meetings, and should be an expectation of the caring relationship. Stephen Ministers also meet twice per month for supervision, support and continuing education. This is done in an environment of complete confidentiality. The names of Care Receivers are never mentioned. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to the program.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

- Pray
- Listen
- Explore Feelings
- Share Christ's love
- Maintain confidentiality
- Attend to the caregiving process and leave the results to God
- Walk with people who are journeying to wholeness
- This is a ministry of *Presence* and *Companionship*

You Should Consider Becoming a Stephen Minister ...

- Because you care for those who hurt - whatever the hurt may be.
- Because you know God cares for those who hurt.
- Because you see Stephen Ministry as a unique and effective way of bringing a faith perspective to situations which - for the moment or for a lifetime - are burdens to those who experience them.
- Because God calls us to be Jesus to others who are hurting.
- Because maybe you are a *wounded healer* whose own experience with adversity may help others who are hurting.

Stephen Ministers do not serve as caregivers for:

- Minors
- Couples, families, or other groups (This is a one-on-one ministry)
- Those who are suffering serious mental or emotional disturbances
- Those who are suffering severe depression
- Those with personality disorders
- Manipulative individuals
- Those dealing with abuse issues Substance abusers or chemically-dependent persons
- Those exhibiting suicidal behavior
- Those exhibiting violent behavior
- Those who need a social worker
- Those who are a part of their circle of friends

Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors, clinical therapists, experts in law, finance, or church doctrine. Stephen Ministers do not "fix" their care receivers nor are they problem solvers (per se).

Stephen Ministers are the Care Givers and God is the Cure Giver.

PBS Video Special - Stephen Ministry:

<http://video.pbs.org/video/1889269877>

Is Stephen Ministry for you?

The Stephen Minister makes a two-year commitment. This is divided into two parts. The 50-hour training topics are described in this section (See Stephen Ministry Training Topics). The training schedule will be included for the next class when applicable. The serving schedule for the remainder of the two years involves a caregiving commitment of 1 hour per week and small group peer supervision for an additional 2.5 hours twice a month on the 2th and 4th Thursday evening. Qualifications include spiritual gifts such as mercy, faith, encouragement, shepherding, and intercession. It is also important that the person have a sense of calling.

The Character of a Stephen Minister is:

Caring, accepting

Humble, open to learning

Able to listen

Reliable

Assertive, affirming

Confidential, trustworthy

Team player, accepting of supervision

Emotionally stable, also geographically, job-and-family stable

Rooted and growing in Christ

The Stephen Minister is commissioned to serve by Faith Promise church

As a trained care member, responsibilities include:

- Providing one-to-one ministry to a person in need.
- Being part of a caring relationship focused on the unique needs of the person which lasts as long as needed.
- Willingly receiving supported, guidance and supervision from Stephen Leaders and peer leading to more effective Christian caregiving.
- Personal benefits include:
 - Becoming more confident in using caregiving skills.
 - Learning to handle a variety of situations with Christ-like love.
 - Transferring this learning to all of life.
 - Knowing he or she is making a difference.
 - Benefitting from the friendships, support system and support of the other Stephen Ministers.

For More Information

contact one of the Stephen Leaders below or fill out the Stephen Minister application below
Stephen Leaders

stephenministry@faithpromise.org

Bob Poteat, 865 406-4191

Patsy Williams, 865 919-4769

Laurie Piepho, 865 591-1301
Jim Brophy, 865 740-1688
Donna Stephens, 865 661-5132

Stephen Minister Application

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGxmX0dzQk00OXp4SINGaG83OVVvZFE6MQ>

Stephen Ministry Training Topics

https://docs.google.com/open?id=0BxW2OA1_ghVqdURzcXVuVF9aRVE