

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A one-to-one ministry providing confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Galatians 6:2 tells us to “*Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*”

This scripture describes the role of the Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the [Stephen Series](#) system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

How Stephen Ministry Works

The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about two groups of people involved in this ministry: Stephen Ministers and care receivers.

Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer one-to-one Christ-centered care to people going through difficult times. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support. Twice a month, all of our Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders meet for supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their common thread is a passion for bringing Christ’s love and care to people during a time of need.

Care Receivers

Care receivers are people—congregation members and others in the community—who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people experiencing difficult times such as the loss of a loved one, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, loss of a job, disability, loneliness, chronic or terminal illness, or any other life struggles.

Stephen Ministry IS....

- Stephen Ministry is being present, listening intently to our care receivers, and always maintaining confidentiality. No one will know who a care receiver is or what he shares except his Stephen Minister.
- Stephen Ministry is here to care for you and be present for you in your time of need by sharing Jesus love and hope. We are there for you as long as you need us.
- Stephen Ministry is a formal relationship. This relationship is different from a friendship because of our boundaries in our relationship with our care receiver.
- Stephen Ministers are lay ministers who agreed to and must follow the rules of Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry IS NOT.....

- A Stephen Minister is not a psychologist or counselor.
- A Stephen Minister is not there to help you out financially or to help you with errands or babysitting.
- A Stephen Minister is not there as a social friend. A Stephen Minister is not there to share stories or go to a movie. (Often the relationship between the Stephen Minister and Care Receiver may grow into a friendship after the formal relationship has concluded.)
- A Stephen Minister is not there to “fix a problem”. ***God is the curegiver, we are the care giver.*** Our job as a Stephen Minister is to listen and care.

IF YOU NEED A STEPHEN MINISTER...

If you or someone you know might benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Janet Stilwell at jstilwell@fmconroe.org or 936-756-3395, ext. 136.

RESOURCES

www.stephenministries.org