

## WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

## A STEPHEN MINISTER IS ...

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve in this role
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages
- Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need

## STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE FOR PEOPLE FACING TOUGH TIMES

We all experience challenges in life—times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as—

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Divorce or separation
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- And many more

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY IS YOUR MINISTRY

You play an important role in our Stephen Ministry. Here's what you can do:

- **Pray** for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.
- **Accept care** from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- **Tell a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative** who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry.
- If you are a good listener and a compassionate person, prayerfully **consider becoming a Stephen Minister.**

## STEPHEN LEADERS ARE ...

Trained leaders in our congregation who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry.

- If you—or someone you know—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister ...
- If you are interested in possibly becoming a Stephen Minister ...
- If you have any other questions about Stephen Ministry ...

... talk with one of our Stephen Leaders.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*  
Galatians 6:2

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

*"Love one another—as I have loved you."*  
John 13:34