

STEPHEN MINISTRY

First Congregational Church of Chatham



Stephen Ministry Multiplies Ministry

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a thoroughly biblical solution—equipping God’s people for ministry. Gifted laypeople receive training to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God’s love to congregation members and nonmembers alike.

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care of a Stephen Minister?

Do you know someone else who could benefit from Stephen Ministry?
(Feel free to pass along this brochure)

Are you interested in possibly becoming a Stephen Minister?

Contact one of our Stephen Leaders:

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stephen
MINISTRY®

**Stephen Ministries St. Louis
Supports Our Congregation’s
Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian educational organization based in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries provides training and resources for thousands of congregations and organizations worldwide. Go to www.stephenministries.org to learn more.

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HOPE
HELP
HEALING

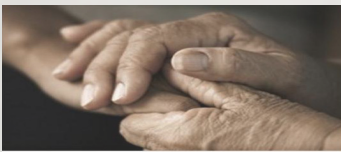
What Is Stephen Ministry?

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

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A Stephen Minister Is ...

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is in need of emotional & spiritual support.
- A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there's a need.



“When care is our first concern, cure can be received as a gift. Often we are not able to cure, but we are always able to care.”

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

Stephen Ministers Care for People Facing Tough Times

We all experience challenges in life—times when we could benefit from care and support. Stephen Ministers can 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
- Many other life challenges

The foundation of Stephen Ministry is to assist all God's people in transformative healing and growth.

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 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, co-worker, or relative who may be experiencing difficulties about Stephen Ministry.
- If you are a compassionate person and a good listener, prayerfully **consider becoming a Stephen Minister.**

Stephen Leaders Are ...

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

- If you could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister...
- If you know someone who might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister...
- If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister...
- If you have any other questions about Stephen Ministry...

...contact one of our Stephen Leaders

“Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11