

Stephen Ministry at First Church

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a Ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised laypersons, called Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

They are caregivers with over 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness and using Christian resources. Their training will include topics such as ministering to divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, aging, loss, etc.

What's the Pastoral team's role?

Pastors will always be the primary caregivers, but there is no way the pastors can meet all the needs for care. God has called all of us, not just pastors to ministers to one another. Stephen Ministry multiplies ministry by turning pastors into equippers, so they can enable lay people to provide caring ministry as well.

Why the name Stephen?

The name Stephen comes from Acts 6. Stephen was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need.

What do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends, who listen, understand, accept, and pray with for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a rough time.

Are Stephen Ministers Counselors?

No. They are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not give advice or counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's need exceeds what a Stephen Minister can provide. When that happens they work with the care receiver to get appropriate help.

Who do I contact?

*If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister you may contact First Church at **660-827-2993** and make arrangements to be contacted within 24 hours.*