



Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Stephen Leaders are church staff, lay leaders, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. They are equipped for this key role through the Stephen Leader Training Course offered by Stephen Ministries St. Louis.

Stephen Ministers (also known as Care Givers) are congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour.

Care Receivers are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.

Are you in need of care?

- Reach out to Claire Francis (see below).
- Get paired with a Stephen Minister (also referred to as a Care Giver).
- Talk weekly, on your own schedule, with your care giver.
- Gain hope and healing as you walk through life.

We are the Care Givers, God is the Cure Giver.

Contact Claire Francis, Stephen Leader: 678-313-1961 or francisr@bellsouth.net

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

Myths about Stephen Ministry

Myth: My problems aren't big enough. Stephen Ministry is only for someone who is in a terrible situation.

Fact: Anyone going through a tough time could benefit from working with a Stephen Minister. Sometimes life just feels overwhelming! You don't have to be going through a tragedy or feel "broken" to reach out for help.

Myth: Everyone will know I'm seeking help, and I'm embarrassed!

Fact: Only the Stephen Ministry coordinator will know who is paired together. The Stephen Minister you are assigned to will be completely confidential and will never disclose your name or the details of your situation, not even to other Stephen Ministers. No one else will even know you have a Stephen Minister unless you tell them.

Myth: If I have a Stephen Minister, I need to meet with them for years, and I can't commit to that.

Fact: When you are paired with a Stephen Minister, you and your Care Giver will work through your challenges on your schedule. There is no set time frame for the caring relationship! You will talk with your Stephen Minister, ideally once a week, for as long as you need.

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