

How does Stephen Ministry benefit St. James' Church and the community?

The care receivers experience greater closeness and involvement in the parish.

Lay people use their gifts of ministry in an effective and challenging way.

People receive more pastoral care time than is possible through the clergy alone.

St. James' experiences a greater sense of continuing growth in healing and love.

St. James' is a witness of Christ's love within the broader community.

Parishioners are encouraged to:

- ◆ pray for the Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
- ◆ let the clergy or Stephen Leaders know of someone who might need a Stephen Minister (with the person's permission)
- ◆ ask the clergy or Stephen Leaders for a Stephen Minister whenever needed
- ◆ consider serving as a Stephen Minister

For information about the Stephen Ministry program, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

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Patrick Kidd
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St. James' Church

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To love is to listen
To listen is to love



Stephen Ministry

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is an international, non-denominational program for pastoral care given through a lay ministry.

It is named for St. Stephen, a person of "faith and wisdom" who was commissioned by the Apostles to care for others in the early church (Acts 6: 1-7).

Stephen Ministry began in a Lutheran church in St. Louis in 1975. Today, it represents more than 100 Christian denominations, and is offered in over 8,500 churches in the United States and Canada, and in 20 other countries.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are dedicated Christians, trained and commissioned by St. James' to listen non-judgmentally and to provide knowledgeable, confidential caring to fellow parishioners going through difficult times.

They generally meet with their care receivers once a week for as long as situations require.

Twice a month, Stephen Ministers attend supervisory sessions for skill building, group support, and continuing education.

Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment as active participants in the program.

Who are Stephen Leaders?

Stephen Leaders are a group of Stephen Ministers that oversee the program and teach Stephen Ministry classes.

They have received additional training by Stephen Ministries, the national organization.

When does someone need a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister cares for a parishioner who may be

- ◆ in a crisis
- ◆ upset because a family member or friend is in a crisis
- ◆ new to the church or the city
- ◆ in spiritual transition
- ◆ worried about financial matters
- ◆ stressed by job situations
- ◆ separated or divorced
- ◆ stressed by child-rearing
- ◆ grieving
- ◆ facing hospitalization
- ◆ experiencing losses related to aging
- ◆ facing a decision about long-term care
- ◆ critically ill or at the end of life

Stephen Ministers attend to the caregiving process, and leave the results to God.

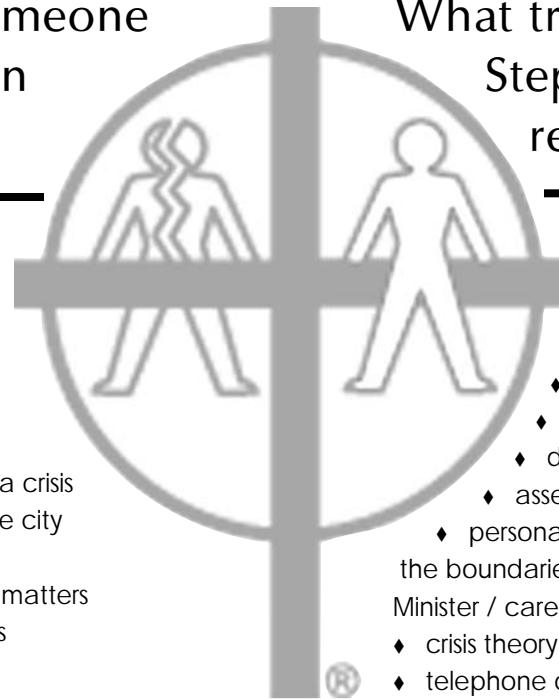
What training have Stephen Ministers received?

Stephen Ministers take a year-long course to learn about

- ◆ confidentiality
- ◆ listening
- ◆ dealing with intense feelings
- ◆ assertiveness
- ◆ personal boundaries, including the boundaries in a Stephen Minister / care receiver relationship
- ◆ crisis theory and intervention
- ◆ telephone care
- ◆ pastoral use of the Bible and prayer
- ◆ resources available in the city

They are *not* trained to be

- ◆ professional psychologists
- ◆ experts in finance, law, medicine or church doctrine
- ◆ social workers with access to extensive services



Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

—I John 4: 11-12