

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 co-journeyer. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with crisis or difficulty, such as –

- † Loss of a loved one
- † Hospitalization
- † Divorce or separation
- † Loneliness or discouragement
- † Spiritual crises
- † Unemployment or a job crisis
- † Terminal illness
- † Incarceration
- † Aging
- † Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- † Concern about one's children
- † 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 remains private.

“...therefore encourage one another and build up each other.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

The Stephen Ministry Team in Our Congregation

Our Stephen Ministers are:

Pip Gledhill, Ann Hajicek,
Andrea Fisher, Ping Wu, Susan Short,
and Bryan Elliott who
is the Referrals Coordinator.

Our Stephen Leaders are:

Andrea Fisher, Ann Hajicek, Ping Wu,
and Pip Gledhill.

Guidance for the structure of our Stephen Ministry program, plus much more of our training and many resources, comes from the Stephen Ministries based in St. Louis (www.StephenMinistries.org). This is a not-for-profit Christian educational organization that has served thousands of congregations and organizations since its founding in 1975. To make use of all it offers, as we have gratefully done, we must be an *enrolled congregation*...which means that you, as part of our congregation, are on our team too.

To learn more about Stephen ministry, talk with any Stephen Leader, our pastor, Bryan Elliott (Referrals Coordinator), or contact the church office:

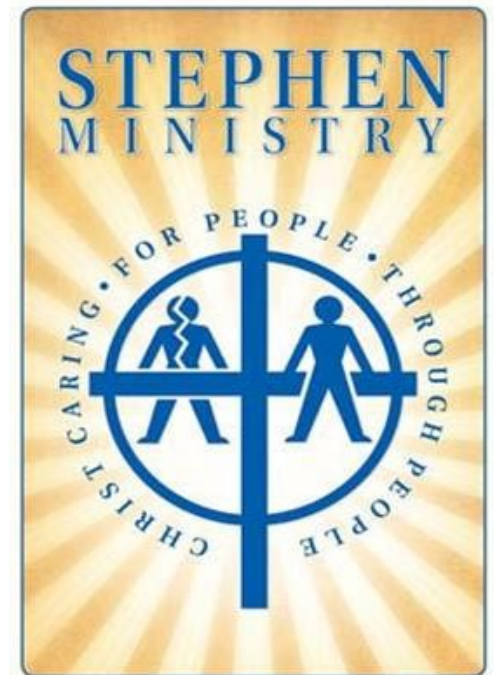
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1970 Riverwoods Road, Lincolnshire IL 60069
(847) 945-8824

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

John 13:34

*Struggling
Stressed?
Hurt?
Discouraged?
Confused?
Broken?*

Stephen Ministers Are ready to care



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 difficulty in their lives.

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 Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't want you to bear your burdens alone.
- † Accept care from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't want you to bear your burdens alone.
- † Tell a friend, neighbor, co-worker, 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.

"Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

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 commissioned lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care.
- † A caring Christian, who listens, 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 is need.

Stephen Leaders Are...

Commissioned members of our congregation who have completed a week-long leadership training session equipping them to oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry.

- † Talk with one of our Stephen Leaders if...
- † You - or someone you know - could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.
- † You are considering the possibility of becoming a Stephen Minister.
- † You have any other questions about Stephen Ministry.



The Stephen Series logo symbolizes that we *all* are broken people and that it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole.

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 themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a biblical solution – *equipping God's people for ministry*. Gifted lay people are trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to people who are hurting – both congregation members and nonmembers alike.

"to equip the saints for the work of ministry."

Ephesians 4:12a