

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

– I Thessalonians 5:11

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 friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to 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

Stephen Ministry Is a Confidential Ministry

The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.



Stephen Ministers Are...

Companions on your journey, whether that means meeting for coffee once a week or just talking on the phone after a tough day.

“We are here to walk with you,” says Nancy Haggart, a Stephen Minister who connected with the group when she joined Covenant.

“Love one another—
as I have loved you.”

– John 13:34

“Bear one another’s burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ.”

– Galatians 6:2

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 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, coworker, 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**



What Is Stephen Ministry?

Assisting our pastors on the front lines of care, 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 difficulties in their lives.



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 lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, 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's a need

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

Do you know someone else – perhaps a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative – who could benefit from Stephen Ministry? (Feel free to pass along this brochure).

Are you interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader?

Contact:

Katherine Kerr, Senior Associate Minister for Congregational Life and Pastoral Care
katherine.kerr@covenantpresby.org
or 704-804-7580



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

Support for Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian educational organization based in St. Louis, Mo. It provides training and resources to thousands of congregations and organizations worldwide.

Visit www.stephenministries.org
or call (314) 428-2600 to learn more.

stephen MINISTRY®

*On the front lines of
care, in times of need.*



COVENANT
presbyterian church