

## Welcome!

Becoming a Stephen Minister in your church is a life-transforming experience—an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith.

## Who Are Stephen Ministers?



Stephen Ministers are congregation members equipped and commissioned for caring ministry. They come from many different backgrounds, ages, and walks of life, but all have one important thing in common: a heart for bringing Christ's healing love to hurting people.

In short, Stephen Ministers are people like you—caring Christians who want to make a difference in the lives of those going through difficult times.

## What Do Stephen Ministers Do?



A Stephen Minister walks alongside a hurting person to provide one-to-one, emotional and spiritual care—listening, empathizing, encouraging, helping

process feelings, and connecting the person with God's love. Serving in this role is an opportunity to put your spiritual gifts into action and touch people's lives in powerful ways.

Typically, a Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver in person, although many have shifted to meeting by phone or video chat during the COVID-19 pandemic so that they can continue their ministry while ensuring everyone's safety.

## Who Do Stephen Ministers Care For?



Stephen Ministers provide care for *care receivers*, people in the congregation or community who are experiencing difficulties in life, such as grief, job loss, divorce, major illness, spiritual struggles, and so on. In the midst of challenging times, receiving care from a Stephen Minister can make a significant difference.

## What Is Stephen Minister Training Like?



Stephen Minister training is an engaging, interactive experience that fully equips you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Your congregation's Stephen Leaders will use presentations, discussions, readings, videos, skill practices, and spiritual growth activities to equip and empower you with practical caregiving and relational skills. In addition, the training provides many opportunities for building Christian community and experiencing personal and spiritual growth.

Stephen Ministers often say that their training was life-transforming—helping them to grow in faith and learn relationship principles and skills that deepened and enhanced all the relationships in their life.

## **Stephen Minister Training begins in February.**

If you think God is calling you to serve as a Stephen Minister and would like to learn more, please reach out to Mary Neil Thompson at [mnmgal@rocketmail.com](mailto:mnmgal@rocketmail.com) or Sherri Mangum at [pcvsherri@yahoo.com](mailto:pcvsherri@yahoo.com)