

# A LITTLE ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

## WHY STEPHEN MINISTRY

The necessity for us to develop a Stephen Ministry is based on the wide variety and large number of needs for care all around us. One does not need to look too far to see a serious life crisis that is currently challenging a member of our congregation. Pastor cannot carry this load of on-going care without help from other gifted and trained caregivers in the congregation. Our role is to walk that challenging journey with one person in need until the need subsides. It is a meaningful ministry making a true difference in the lives of hurting individuals and in the entire congregation.

Stephen Ministers

- Receive intensive training to succeed as caregivers.
- Enjoy a strong Christian community that forms among Stephen Ministers in training and supervision groups.
- Develop profound relationships with care receivers.
- Grow as persons, family members, parents, marriage partners, coworkers, supervisors and friends.

## DEFINITIONS

**Stephen Ministries** St. Louis is a not-for-profit ministry organization with its headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. It is transdenominational, serving more than 150 denominations. This worldwide ministry has ties to Stephen Ministry congregations in all 50 states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and several other countries. The mission of Stephen Ministries is to show the love of Jesus Christ through people.

**Stephen Ministry** is a distinctively Christian caring ministry in which clergy and laity work together to provide quality one-to-one care to meet the needs of people experiencing a wide range of life circumstances or crises.

**Stephen Series** is a complete system for training and organizing lay-people to give distinctively Christian care to people who need it.

**Stephen Ministers** are laypeople who have been trained through the Stephen Series in the theology of caring and in specific caring skills.

## THE STEPHEN SERIES LOGO



Everybody is broken in one way or another. Losses, crises, and other painful life events show our brokenness and drive us to Jesus for healing and hope. In his cross, Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. In Him we find the healing we need. Stephen Ministers bring hurting people to Jesus to find healing and hope. This is the meaning of the Stephen Series motto, “Christ caring for people through people.” Stephen Ministers care for the person – God cures.

## BACKGROUND OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

In Acts 6:1-7, Stephen is identified as one of the first laypeople set aside to do caring ministry. Kenneth Haugk, an ordained minister and clinical psychologist, picked Stephen as the image for the lay caregiving program he started in 1975 to meet the needs of his own congregation. Dr. Haugk is the executive director of Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Leader’s Training Courses began in 1978. Since then, more than 12,000 congregations have trained Stephen Leaders.