

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

WHAT STEPHEN MINISTERS DO

Stephen Ministers do all the following:

- Provide quality one-to-one ministry as trained, caring church members reaching out to others in time of need
- Engage in a caregiving relationship that focuses on the unique needs of one person and that lasts as long as the needs exist, sometimes up to a year
- Receive support, guidance, and supervision from Stephen Leaders and from one another in order to continue giving effective Christian care to others

IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

- Confidentiality is an absolute must
- Stephen Ministers are selected and retained based on their ability to maintain confidentiality in their caring relationships with God's people

STEPHEN MINISTERS AS COMMISSIONED SERVANTS

- Willingness to give of oneself in servanthood is vital
- The level of one's education is not important, but the level of one's commitment to Christ and desire to really care about others are very important
- Stephen Ministers will be commissioned at the end of the 50-hour training program

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING MATERIALS

Every Stephen Minister uses four items:

- Stephen Ministry Training Manual
- Christian Caregiving – a Way of Life
- Speaking the Truth in Love
- When and How to Use Mental Health Resources'

In addition, a library of other books and materials will be available for reading and reference by Stephen Ministers and Leaders.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STEPHEN MINISTER

A Stephen Minister has the following responsibilities:

- A 24-month commitment of service to the program
- Attendance and participation in the 50-hour training program
- Study of the training materials
- Service as a Stephen Minister (usually involving a one-hour weekly one-to-one visit) for up to 12 months following the completion of the training program
- Participation in twice-monthly supervision meetings for about 18 months following completion of the training program