



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSOULA

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 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, and several other countries. The mission of Stephen Ministries is to show the love of Jesus Christ through people.

Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing lay-people to give distinctively Christian care to people who need it, both in the congregation and in the community.

Stephen Ministers are lay people who have been trained through the Stephen Series in the theology of caring and in specific caring skills

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 this cross Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. In him we find the healing we need. Stephen Ministers bring hurting people to Jesus' cross, there 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.

History 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 10,000 congregations have trained Stephen Leaders.

Leader's Training Course

Clergy and lay leaders attend seven days of intensive training.

Leaders representing many denominations come from all over the U S and many other countries.

Each leader learns how to use a Stephen Series Leader's Manual.

Role of Stephen Leaders

Stephen Leaders do all the following:

Provide leadership in all aspects of the ministry

Share a vision and build a foundation for a lasting Stephen Ministry in the congregation

Recruit and select caring people for Stephen Ministry training

Train those people to become Stephen Minister caregivers

Work with the pastor to identify people in need of care

Assign Stephen Ministers to provide care

Supervise the caregivers and serve as support people and consultants

Affirm the care given by Stephen Ministers

What Stephen Ministers Do

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

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 for 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, some Stephen Ministers are trained as Supervision Group Facilitators and use the Supervision Group Facilitator Manual

Responsibilities of a Stephen Minister

A Stephen Minister has the following responsibilities:

A 24-month commitment of service to the program

Attendance at and participation in the 50-hours training program

Study of the training materials

Service as a Stephen Minister (usually involving a one-hour weekly one-to-one weekly visit) for about 18 months following completion of the training program

Participation in twice-monthly supervision meetings for about 18 months following completion of the training program

The Application Process

Each person willing to assume the responsibilities of a Stephen Minister and wishing to be considered for the upcoming training class should complete an application form and return it as soon as possible