



Commonly Asked Questions about Serving as a Stephen Minister

Question: How much of my time will it really involve?

Answer: There are 50 hours of training (see training schedule attached to the Stephen Minister application). Once commissioned as a Stephen Minister you will visit about once a week (for about one hour) with the person you are caring for. You will also attend two meetings per month for supervision and continuing education.

Question: How much money will this cost?

Answer: Training materials cost \$50, of which you will be asked to contribute \$25 (Bethany will pick up the other \$25).

Question: Will I have to spend money on the person I am caring for (the care receiver)?

Answer: No, you are not expected to spend any money whatsoever on the care receiver. You are also not expected to personally provide any other specific services for a care receiver, such as transportation or baby-sitting, for example. As a Stephen Minister, you may at times assist in arranging for such services.

Question: Will my phone be ringing constantly?

Answer: No. You will care for one care receiver at a time. If the care receiver were to begin calling too often, you will learn to respond to too many phone calls or excessive demands in a loving, assertive manner. It probably won't arise though.

Question: Will our pastor still help and counsel people?

Answer: Most definitely! Stephen Ministers complement the pastor's ministry and provide even more care to those who need it.

Question: What if I get in over my head, with people who need more care than I can provide?

Answer: First of all, you will never be knowingly assigned to people who might be in those situations. The Stephen Ministry training also helps you to know exactly when and how to help your care receiver get professional help when necessary. The Supervision Group, the Stephen Leaders and the pastor are also there to help you to make such decisions.

Question: How will I personally benefit from this experience?

Answer: You will learn many skills that will be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry. Also, the satisfaction of helping another person is a wonderful blessing.

Question: Do I have to stop being a Stephen Minister after two years?

Answer: No, many people decide to continue as Stephen Ministers after two years. You and your Stephen Leaders will make that decision when the time comes.

Question: Who will be the care receivers?

Answer: Members of this congregation who are experiencing times of special need and other people within our community who may turn to us for help. Thus, Stephen Ministry is also a way to reach out to others as well as to our own members.

Question: Will the care receiver really want my care?

Answer: Yes. A Stephen Leader will meet first with the care receiver. Only after the care receiver understands Stephen Ministry and has agreed to meet with a Stephen Minister will you be contacted.

Question: Are other people as scared as I seem to be about this undertaking?

Answer: Probably so! But the training will eliminate much of this fear because you will not only learn what to say but also, and more importantly, how to listen.

Question: How do I apply?

Answer: Fill out the application form. You will then have an opportunity to meet with the pastor and the Stephen Leaders to ask any questions and make your final decision.