

Stephen Minister Job Description



Stephen Ministers are members or affiliate members of the McCormick United Methodist Church who are recruited, selected, trained, commissioned, and assigned to provide one-to-one lay caring ministry to people experiencing moderate difficulties in their lives and therefore need caring support. They also find, with the help of the pastors and the congregation, people who would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister and they help the congregation understand and appreciate the Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers undergo 50 hours of initial training and commit to serve for two years.

Stephen Ministers normally meet with their care receivers for about an hour per week in person and, in some situations or circumstances, telephone contact is appropriate. They utilize those special skills they have learned and/or refined in training to care for their care receivers. They **listen ...** they help the care receiver **deal with feelings ...** and they **share distinctively Christian caring resources such as prayer ...** all the while **maintaining complete confidentiality.** Stephen Ministers do not try to fix the care receiver or their problems ... instead they remain **focused on the process of caregiving and rely on God to achieve results.** Stephen Ministers respect the needs of the care receiver and their own needs as well ... they set appropriate boundaries in the caring relationship, thereby helping the care receiver remain as independent as possible while the Stephen Minister is there for the care receiver as needed. Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize when and if the care receiver's needs exceed the care they are able to provide. In these situations Stephen Ministers **recommend professional care when necessary.** Lastly ... Stephen Ministers **are never on their own.** As part of their deep commitment to quality Christian caregiving, trained Stephen Ministers participate in twice-monthly Small Group Peer Supervision where the Stephen Ministers meet together in order to support, encourage, and help one another (while still maintaining confidentiality) to provide the best distinctively Christian care possible for care receivers.

In you have any questions contact any of our Stephen Ministers ... we wear our name tags in church ... or contact Reverend Paul Wood (843-222-5257) or any of the Stephen Leaders who are Beverly Western (391-5967), Phil Bailey (852-4186), Sundee Luedecke (391-8657), Ronnie Kidd (852-2407), or Reverend Kay Wood (843-222-4458).