Caring Ministries at the Church of Reconciliation

What do the Caregivers do?

- Caregivers respond weekly to church members’ Celebrations and Concerns, as shared in the Book during worship, with compassionate care and practical assistance
- Caregivers write cards, make phone calls, provide transportation to medical appointments, bring a meal to the home
- Caregivers provide long-term liaisons to coordinate practical assistance over an extended period of time
- Caregivers coordinate receptions at memorial services for members of the church community
- Currently, 32 church members serve as Caregivers throughout the year
- Caregivers Co-chairs are Jennifer McGovern (jmcgov@mindspring.com) and Lisa Anthony (LisaSerene@outlook.com)

What do the Deacons do?

- Deacons stay in touch with the membership of the church, reaching out to members who are going through a transition, or who have not been in church for a while
- Deacons maintain the Hospitality Folders in the sanctuary, and use the information to stay aware of members’ involvement
- Deacons offer those who are not strongly connected to the life of the congregation the care and fellowship of the church
- Deacons enhance the small group life of the church, encouraging members to build community by getting to know each other outside of church and meeting in small group settings in members’ homes
- Deacons sponsor the Circles of Light program, which matches members by interest in small groups that meet monthly for book discussion, spiritual enrichment, arts and crafts, life-sharing
- Deacons coordinate Suppers for the Flock, occasional meals hosted by members in their homes to foster closer relationships in the church
- Deacons Co-chairs are Ellen Davis (ellen.davis41@outlook.com) and Beth Bale (bethbale@windstream.net)

What do Stephen Ministers do?

- Provide one-to-one confidential Christian care for care receivers in periods of crisis, transition, or difficulty
- Stephen Ministers typically have one care receiver at a time and meet with that person weekly for about an hour, for up to two years
- Stephen Ministers build a trusting, caring relationship with their care receiver, and listen, empathize, pray with and for them, and encourage them with Christ’s love and care
• Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training in effective Christian caregiving
• Stephen Ministers meet in small group peer supervision twice a month to ensure effective care
• Stephen Ministers receive ongoing continuing education
• As of June 2016, the Rec has 6 commissioned Stephen Ministers – Bill Andrews, Ellen Davis, Justin Godinho, Kelly Godinho, John Peterson, and Judy Thompson
• The Rec’s Stephen Ministry is coordinated by the Stephen Leaders – Allison Davidson (storytreecastle@gmail.com), Beth Welton (elizabeth.welton@gmail.com), and Mark Davidson (pastor@churchrec.org)
• The Pastor and the Stephen Leader Team identify people in the congregation in need of spiritual and emotional care, introduce them to Stephen Ministry, make sure Stephen Ministry is right for them, and then match them with a Stephen Minister. Members may also request a Stephen Minister by contacting the Pastor or the Stephen Leaders

What is the role of the elder-on-call?

• Session members take vows to provide spiritual oversight for the membership of the church. Through their elder-on-call responsibility, elders are available each week to assist the Pastor and the Caregivers in meeting the needs of the congregation

How is the Pastor involved in these caring ministries?

• Pastor makes hospital visits and provides pastoral care during emergencies
• Pastor provides pastoral counseling to members, and makes referrals to mental health professionals in situations requiring long-term or specialized care
• Pastor provides premarital and marriage counseling
• Pastor offers spiritual direction
• Pastor is “the face of the church” to those who come to our door with problems
• Pastor oversees and coordinates the caring ministries in the congregation and addresses specific concerns as they arise
• Pastor updates the email prayer chain
• Pastor offers grief ministry

What is the role of the part-time Church Educator?

• The Church Educator provides care for the youth group, the children of the congregation, and their families

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