

STEPHEN *ministry*

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT MOUNTAIN VIEW

Stephen Ministry is a new ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER {AND WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN}

If the idea of serving as a Stephen Minister has crossed your mind, below are some guidelines that might help in your decision making.

Gifts - A Stephen Minister is a person with the gift of mercy, who shows compassion, gives encouragement to, and intercedes for those he or she cares for. Many Stephen Ministers say that they receive much more from the caring relationship with their care receiver than they give.

Commitment - A Stephen Minister devotes time, energy, and resources to this ministry. In return, a Stephen Minister has the chance to participate in meaningful ministry, make a major difference in another person's life, and grow as a joyous child of God.

Training - A Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. He or she learns about listening, assertiveness, confidentiality, and many other aspects of caregiving. After completing the initial training, there is continuing education. Stephen Ministers find that their relationships become richer and deeper at home, church, work, and with friends.

Dedicated Service - A Stephen Minister serves wholeheartedly. This isn't a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, and commitment. In return, the Stephen Minister receives grateful thanks from his or her care receiver, our Stephen Leaders, the congregation, and our Lord.

Accountability - A Stephen Minister is accountable to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, the other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver. In return, he or she receives support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.

Calling - The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God's guidance as you consider this opportunity.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

- Are children of God who walk beside hurting people.
- Are lay Christians selected, trained, and supervised by Stephen Leaders to provide effective Christian care.
- Make a commitment which includes 50 hours of training, on-going supervisory meetings, and an average of one 1-hour visit per week with the person receiving their care.
 - Are assigned to a care receiver by the Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator.
- Are named after St. Stephen, one of the first deacons in the early Christian church, commissioned by the apostles to care for the needs of the people in the Christian community.
 - Recognize this as a confidential ministry in which continuous effort is expended to maintain the body of trust between the person receiving care and the caregiving.
 - Are a caring Christian friend who really listens.

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" 1 John 4:11-12

For more information about becoming a Stephen Minister or if you are looking for a caregiver through Stephen Ministry, please contact our Associate Pastor, Dan Jones, at dan@mtvpc.org