



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

A MINISTRY OF CARE

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of Westminster Presbyterian are trained and organized to help provide Christian care giving to members of our congregation and community. Stephen Ministry will multiply the amount of caring ministry Westminster can provide by giving us a team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, hospitalized, terminally ill, and others facing a crisis or life challenge.

- The Ministry provides one-to-one caring ministry by trained lay – members of our congregation. Men are matched with men; women with women.

- The Ministry is a supervised ministry. Stephen Ministers engage in twice-monthly supervision to ensure that they are providing the best quality Christian care.
- The Ministry is a confidential ministry. What a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister remains confidential. Even in supervision, the names of care receivers and specific details are never discussed.
- Stephen Ministers do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

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How many congregations have Stephen Ministry?

More than 12,000 congregations, from more than 170 denominations, in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 29 other countries, have Stephen Ministry. Many of these congregations have had Stephen Ministry going strong for more than 30 years.

Who Are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of Westminster Presbyterian Church who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to hurting people. They are people with a compassionate heart who've been equipped with the skills to listen, encourage, and offer support when someone is in need.

Do Stephen Ministers care for people outside WPC congregation?

Yes. Stephen Ministers often provide care for people in the broader community—relatives, friends, and coworkers of congregation members; nonmembers whom the congregation

serves; as well as military personnel and their families. This is a powerful way that Stephen Ministry can enhance and expand a congregation's outreach.



What does the Stephen Ministry Logo mean?

The Stephen Ministry logo tells a story—the story of a receiver's journey from care receiver's journey from brokenness toward wholeness through the cross of Jesus. It is a journey made possible by "Christ caring for people through people," which is the Stephen Ministry motto.

If you are in need of the support of a Stephen Minister or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Don Gillespie, Director of Pastoral Care, at 803-325-6736 or dgillespie@wpcgo.com.

Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ. -
Galatians 6:2

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH