



The Stephen Ministry of Bear Creek United Methodist Church is requesting that all current Stephen Ministers, as well as those who want to be trained as Stephen Ministers, complete the form below then drop it off at the church office or hand it to John Ella Fowler before or after the 11am service on Sundays. She will be in the Narthex of the Sanctuary collecting your forms. Or, if you prefer, text your name and contact information indicating your interest in returning to the Stephen Ministry or becoming trained as a Stephen Minister, to: **713-201-3876**

What is Stephen Ministry?

Our congregation offers Stephen Ministry to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time. The ministry draws its name from the book of Acts, Chapter 6 in which Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the days of the Apostles, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community, and is at the heart of the Stephen Ministry.

Who is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is a well-trained caregiver who listens, prays, encourages, and offers the love of Christ to people during a time of need.

Stephen Ministry



Contact Information

Please print.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

e-mail: _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile/Cell Phone _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Check one:

_____ I have been trained as a Stephen Minister.

_____ I want to be trained as a Stephen Minister.

What is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

How are Stephen Ministers trained?

Stephen Ministers are trained by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. The training they receive in the congregation equips them to provide high-quality care to people who are hurting.

Why is the ministry named Stephen Ministries

The organization draws its name from St. Stephen. In the book of Acts, Chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the days of the Apostles, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community—and is at the heart of all we do at Stephen Ministries.

Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.