

Stephen Ministry

What can you do?

Life can change in an instant. The once manageable bumps in the road of life suddenly become uncomfortable. You could really use someone to talk to. But who? Your family knows all about it, you don't want to burden your friends, but you feel that talking this out would make a difference.



Stephen Ministry has been serving believers in such situations for over 28 years and is currently used in more than 8,000 congregations. It's confidential. It's free. It's available to the Northshore Baptist Church family at any time.

"When my doctor told me the results of all the tests, I really lost it—I didn't know where to turn. Pastor Jon offered a Stephen Minister and she has really become a blessing."

"Everyone was giving me advice, all different. It was so good to be able to unload with someone who didn't judge me."

"My friends and family had lovingly extended condolences at my loss—but my Stephen Minister was there for support long after others had returned to their everyday lives."

"Sometimes those closest to you just don't get it. My Stephen Minister listened...and understood."

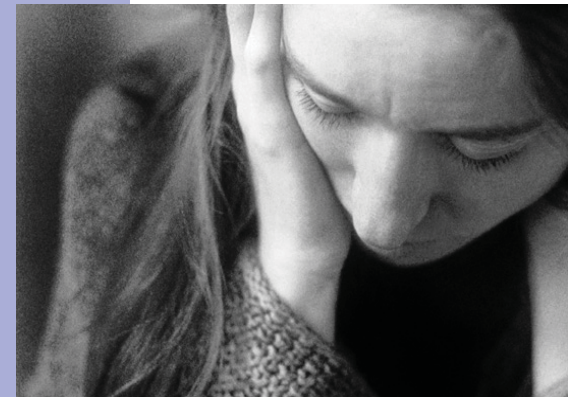
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No thanks, I'm fine.

Well, I have been better.

I'm just not sure I can handle this.

Stephen Ministry

at Northshore Baptist Church

Meeting needs

Stephen Ministers are lay members of Northshore who have received formal training in compassionate ministry skills and who continue that training during their two years of service to the Northshore family.

Be assured that Stephen Ministry is confidential: those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what goes on in the caring relationship will remain private.

Reasons for seeking a Stephen Minister might include:

- facing life transitions
- experiencing a job crisis
- grieving a death or loss
- growing family issues like divorce, empty nest, new child, and more
- learning the diagnosis of a serious illness for yourself, relative or friend
- being hospitalized or handicapped

Doing what it takes

Stephen Ministers work together with our pastors to reach more people with Christian care than pastors are able to reach alone. Stephen Ministry equips people like you and me to provide Christian one-to-one care for those who are experiencing all kinds of life challenges and circumstances.

The skills and training learned through Stephen Ministry become tools used often to touch lives at home, at work, and in our church family. Stephen Ministers are committed Christians who:

- express God's care through their lives to others
- receive 50 hours of initial training in caring ministry skills and concepts
- visit the care receiver faithfully, offering Christian care and support
- participate in continuing education and regular supervision time under the guidance of trained Stephen Leaders



You can help too

If this description of Stephen Ministry has touched your heart, you may be ready to become a Stephen Minister. You can contact Janet Christiansen at 425-216-4432 and ask for an information packet. Inside you will find details regarding the Stephen Ministry training classes and an application form.

Once you complete the application form and return it to Janet, she will arrange an interview as the first step in the process of becoming a Stephen Minister.

People who receive care from a Stephen Minister:

- receive quality Christian care
- deepen their relationship with the Lord
- grow in their desire to participate in Christian community
- come to value the care of another lay person while maintaining contact with a pastor

What Stephen Ministers do for their care receivers:

- faithfully meet at the agreed upon time week after week
- listen compassionately
- keep all contacts entirely confidential
- avoid trying to fix people
- pray with and for the care receiver

Additional Stephen Ministry Support:

- Christian Community Hospice: for those with a terminal illness and a prognosis of less than one year.
- Chaplaincy Ministry: visitation to those in the hospital, the homebound, or in extended care facilities.