

## Equipping God's People for Ministry since 1975

[Learn about Stephen Ministry](#)

[Journeying through Grief Books](#)

[Cancer—Now What?](#)

[The Gift of Empathy](#)

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### Stephen Ministry Basics

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[Care Receivers Tell Their Stories](#)

[What Is a Stephen Minister?](#)

[How to Begin Stephen Ministry](#)

[The Bridge Leader's Training Course \(BLTC\)](#)

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## Stephen Minister Training

Stephen Minister training is an engaging, energizing experience that features a mixture of presentation, video, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities. Since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been equipped by this training to provide care to millions of people.

Stephen Minister training . . .

teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others.

gives you new insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of people who are hurting.

equips you with relational and caring skills you can apply to all aspects of your life.

helps deepen your faith as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver.

builds a special bond of Christian community and camaraderie among all those in your class.

is highly interactive, engaging, and a lot of fun!



Stephen Minister training is an engaging, energizing experience that includes a mixture of lecture, video, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities.

## Stephen Ministers Share about Their Training

*“God gave me a heart for other people. Stephen Minister training gave me the skills I needed to minister to people and bring God’s love into their lives during a time of deep need.”*

Charlotte | Manager-Care/Case Management | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*“Stephen Minister training taught me not just how to be a caregiver, but how to live life in a new way—being Christ to other people.”*

Mike | Carpenter | Kennesaw, Georgia

*“Stephen Minister training has helped me grow—personally, spiritually, and professionally. I use my Stephen Minister skills all the time with patients, peers, and physicians.”*

Anna | Registered Nurse | Hendersonville, Tennessee

*“Stephen Minister training has enhanced every relationship I have. Now I can listen and be there without feeling like I need to rush in and try to fix things. (My 15-year-old finds this a great*

*blessing!) I'm much more at peace in difficult situations because I realize that it's not me—but Christ within me—who does the work. ”*

Susan | Licensed Massage Therapist | Saint Petersburg, Florida

*“Stephen Minister training has given me skills I use all the time with my patients, particularly when they experience a crisis, large or small. It enables me to provide a level of emotional care that enhances our clinical care.”*

Barbara | Dental Hygienist | Saginaw, Michigan

*“Stephen Minister training has helped me relate better to family, friends, neighbors—everyone I meet!”*

Maria | Mother | Ridgefield, Connecticut

*“One of the biggest things I learned is that it's not about me, it's about God. I am the caregiver, and God is the cure-giver. My job is to listen—to really listen and care—and rely on God to bring about healing.”*

Paul | College Student | Clinton, South Carolina

## How and Where the Training Happens

Stephen Minister training:

takes place in your congregation

is led by your congregation's Stephen Leaders

is typically taught in 20 weekly sessions, possibly including one or more retreats

combines Pre-Class Reading, devotions, presentation, discussion, skill practice, and video



Stephen Minister training takes place in the congregation and is led by the congregation's Stephen Leaders.

## What the Training Covers

Initial training takes place before Stephen Ministers are commissioned and assigned their first care receivers. Continuing education takes place after commissioning and throughout a Stephen Minister's service.

### *Initial Training*

Stephen Ministers' initial training covers essential caregiving topics that give trainees a solid foundation for offering distinctively Christian care to people going through a variety of life challenges.

1. The Person of the Caregiver
2. Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
3. The Art of Listening
4. Distinctively Christian Caring

5. A Process Approach to Caring
6. Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
7. Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
8. Crisis Theory and Practice
9. Confidentiality
10. Caring between Visits: Caregiving and Communications Technology
11. Using Mental Health



Learn about the [resources Stephen Leaders use](#).



Learn about the [resources Stephen Ministers use in training](#).

#### Professionals and Other Community Resources

12. Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
13. Caring for Those with Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role
14. Understanding Suicide: How to Help People Get the Care They Need
15. Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close
16. Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care
17. How to Make a First Caring Visit
18. Go—God Is with You!

### ***Continuing Education***

Stephen Ministry continuing education helps Stephen Ministers to continue to hone and develop additional caregiving skills. Seven modules of continuing education (listed below) are provided by Stephen Ministries as a starting point. In addition, Stephen Leaders identify continuing education topics to meet the needs of their congregation's Stephen Ministers.

19. Ministering to Those Who Are Dying and Their Family and Friends
20. Caring for People Experiencing a Major Medical Crisis
21. Ministering to People Experiencing Challenges Related to Aging
22. Ministering to People Needing Long-Term Care
23. Ministering to Those Experiencing Divorce
24. Crises Related to Starting or Adding to a Family
25. Advanced Christian Caring

### **Learn More:**

[Resources Stephen Ministers Use in Training](#)

[Resources Stephen Leaders Use](#)

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### Contact Us

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### About Us

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975 that produces training and resources known for their excellence, practicality, psychological integrity, and theological depth. These resources cover topics such as caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, spiritual growth, and more.

Congregations and other organizations use these resources to strengthen and expand ministry. Individuals use them to improve their ability to relate to and care for others, grow in faith, and journey through life crises. Our 30-person staff is based in St. Louis, Missouri.

### Quick Links

- [What Is Stephen Ministry?](#)
- [Care Receivers Tell Their Stories \(Videos\)](#)
- [How to Begin Stephen Ministry in Your Church](#)
- [The Bridge Leader's Training Course](#)
- [Request Information about Stephen Ministry](#)
- [\*Journeying through Grief\* Books](#)
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