

Stephen Ministry at Bridgeway



What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one care ministry that equips and empowers lay caregivers—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. In Galatians 6:2, the Apostle Paul implores us to “Bear one another’s burdens.” Our burdens can look like anything from the loss of a job, divorce, the isolation of the elderly or sick, the loss of a loved one or close friend, or personal illness. Stephen Ministers are not counselors, mentors or pastors; they are men and women who understand the *ministry of presence*—being with people to love and support them through life’s difficult times.

Bridgeway Needs More Stephen Ministers!

We’re looking for men and women who love the Lord, who are gifted with compassion and mercy, who are great listeners, and who can keep confidences. Has God given you a heart of compassion for others? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers receive 70 hours of in-depth training as well as on-going continuing education and supervision. Our next Stephen Ministry Training begins in September of 2019. We are accepting applications now through the end of June.

Training Schedule

- Mondays from 6pm to 8:30pm, September 9, 2019 – April 20, 2020,
- Plus two Saturday sessions: September 28, 2019 and January 25, 2020 – 8:30am – 1:00pm
- Cost: \$80 per person (includes 2 workbooks and 3 additional books and graduation banquet)

There’s more than training

- Training will be followed by...
 - Commissioning Service
 - Twice-monthly Supervision & Continuing Education
 - Meetings with your Care Receiver (typically 1 to 1.5 hours per week)
- We are asking for a 2-year *minimum* commitment!

How to Register

- Complete the interest form at bridgeway.church/stephenministry in order to receive application materials.
- Once you have submitted the application materials, our Stephen Ministry team will set up an interview with you.
- If you are selected, you will then be able to register for the Stephen Ministry Training.

How Stephen Ministry Works

- The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about three groups of people involved in this ministry:
 - Stephen Leaders
 - Stephen Ministers, and
 - Care Receivers

Stephen Leaders

- Establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. They...
 - build awareness
 - recruit and train Stephen Ministers
 - meet with care receivers to assess needs
 - match care receivers with Stephen Ministers
 - provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education

Care Receivers

- Are congregation members and others in the community who receive care from a Stephen Minister.
- These are people struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.

Care Relationship Guidelines

- The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential.
- Men are matched with men; women with women.
- Understand limits of care and refer to appropriate mental health professional or other community resource when necessary.

Stephen Minister Training Topics (70 hours of training)

- The Person of the Caregiver
- Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Process versus Results in Caregiving
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Crisis Theory and Practice
- Confidentiality
- Telecare: The Next Best Thing to Being There
- Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Dealing with Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role
- Helping Suicidal Persons Get the Help They Need
- Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close
- Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care
- How to Make a First Caring Visit
- Ministry to the Dying and Their Family and Friends
- Caring for People before, during, and after Hospitalization
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging
- Ministering to Persons Needing Long-Term Care
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Divorce
- Crisis of Pregnancy and Childbirth
- Providing Spiritual Care

For More Information

- For more information about Stephen Ministry at Bridgeway, see our Stephen Ministry page at: bridgeway.church/stephenministry
- Contact Pastor Mark Henkel at mhenkel@bridgeway.church
- For more information about Stephen Ministry, see the Stephen Ministries website at www.stephenministries.org