

Stephen Ministry



STEPHEN MINISTRY IS COMING TO ASBURY

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ

(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation in St. Louis to be Stephen Ministers. They assisted him in providing Christian care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties.

Fast forward to today and there are more than 13,000 congregations offering Stephen Ministry as an extension of Pastoral care.

- Stephen Ministry relates to the last half of Asbury's mission statement (grow in faith as we seek to love, serve and celebrate God, each other and our community).
- Stephen Ministry is a proven way to organize, equip and supervise a team of congregation members called Stephen Ministers to provide Confidential, high-quality, one-to-one Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Who's involved in Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Leaders consist of church staff, church members and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their Stephen Ministry. Stephen Leaders are equipped for this key role through 25 hours of training, which Candace Jenkins, Rhonda Reed, Stephen Reed and Sandra Katz just completed. Rev. Claire Marich has been a Stephen Leader for several years.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time. Throughout the summer we will recruit candidates for our first Stephen Minister class to begin in the fall.

Care Receivers are congregation or community members going through a crisis or life difficulty...death, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties, hospitalization, a spiritual crisis, job loss or health crisis.

We invite each of you to be a part of this ministry, whether you might consider being a Stephen Minister, or know someone needing the caring service of a Stephen Minister.

We ask for your prayers as we embrace this Ministry. If you have any questions, please call Candace Jenkins at the Church office 912-233-4351.