



***“Christ Caring for
People through People”***

Stephen Ministry is a non-profit Christian organization that offers congregations with training and resources. It is a proven and effective way to organize a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-on-one, Christ-centered care for individuals — called Care Receivers — who are experiencing life’s difficult challenges.

Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

How did Word Of Life get started with the Program?

WOL church officially registered in 2017, joining more than 13,000 congregations world-wide, 20 denominations, 75,000 leaders, 600,000 trained ministers, and over 1.5 million people who have experienced SM care. At the 2019 annual conference in St. Louis, Pastor Chris Fiske and Diane Goudy were trained as Leaders. WOL workshops were held in June and September for any WOL interested members, with seven continuing the training ending with the Commissioning held on April 14, 2021. The mission statement of the class of 2021 is:

As Stephen Ministers, we dedicate ourselves to serve God in affirming Christian love with individuals who are facing life’s challenges by offering one-on-one Confidential support and building hope through listening, patience, compassion

How can I get more Information?

If you want to know more about the program, how to be trained, or think you might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, call the Word of Life Church Office, or send an email that will be kept in confidence.

Leave a brief message with your name and the phone number where you can be reached. Please allow time to have the message received, and you will be contacted.

(641) 472– 1463
office@wordoflifelc.com

If you are in an emergency situation, go to your nearest Emergency Room or Call 911 .

Stephen Minister care is provided at no cost, is individualized for you, and can last as long as it is beneficial for you.

What are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing challenges, going through tough times, or in a crisis situation. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-on-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they are equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregations' Stephen Leaders. Their role is different from that of a counselor, therapist, pastor, or physician. Their role is to listen and care — not counsel or advise. However, they might suggest when professional care may be helpful. On a spiritual level, Stephen Ministers can help their care receivers work through challenges without pressuring them or forcing faith on them. If care receivers want to pray together, they are happy to do so.

Stephen Ministers care by helping their care receivers explore feelings without being judgmental. Their role does not include "giving answers".

***They are the "care" givers —
God is the "cure" giver!***

What are examples of life challenges that Stephen Ministers can support?

- Grieving the death of a loved one
- Hospitalized or recovering from hospitalization
- Lonely or discouraged
- Coping with a terminal illness or caring for a family member with a terminal illness
- Unemployed or in a job crisis
- Disabled or caring for an ill or disabled family member
- Moving or relocating
- New to the congregation or the community
- Anticipating the birth or adoption of a child
- Homebound or institutionalized
- Transitioning into retirement
- Dealing with the crisis of aging
- Facing a life transition
- Experiencing a spiritual crisis
- Victims of a disaster or accident

What topics are included in training?

Stephen Ministers have 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving before they are commissioned to serve in our church. Training includes topics such as listening, assertiveness, boundaries, confidentiality, understanding feelings, communication and using Christian resources in caregiving. Much of their training included role-playing to practice specialized methods to help minister to those grieving, divorced, hospitalized, aging, or experiencing financial difficulties, to name a few.

Is Stephen Ministry confidential?

The Stephen Minister's program maintains strict confidentiality about the care receiver's identity, personal information, and conversation content.

Are Stephen Ministers supervised?

Stephen Ministry includes twice-monthly supervision and continued training to ensure that the best-quality Christian care is being given.