



Eastside Stephen Ministry Agreement to Receive Care



Since you will be receiving Stephen Ministry from a Stephen Minister at Eastside Church, it is good for you to understand the basic facts about Stephen Ministers and the care they provide.

What does a Stephen Minister Do?

One-to-one: Stephen Ministers meet privately with one care receiver of the same gender.

Lay: Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised lay volunteers, not professional counselors or therapists, pastors, or physicians.

Christian: Stephen Ministers are Christians who care in the name of Christ. They are willing to talk about spiritual issues but won't force them.

Care: Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting and encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy, and maintaining confidentiality in their caregiving.

Confidentiality

Stephen Ministers keep personal information confidential. Therefore, you can feel free to share with your Stephen Minister without worrying that everyone else will know about it. There are rare occasions when Stephen Ministers must share confidential information in order to save a life. Those occasions are suicide, homicide, or abuse.

Small Group Peer Supervision

Stephen Ministers meet twice a month in small groups to give and receive peer supervision, which is necessary to help them provide quality care and grow as caregivers. In supervision Stephen Ministers talk about their caring relationships and their own feelings about caregiving. They may share small amounts of information about their care receivers, but they never tell the care receiver's name and they do not share information that would reveal the care receiver's identity. Stephen Ministers may also receive individual supervision from a Stephen Leader or pastor, but the same rules apply.

Professional Consultation

On rare occasions a Stephen Minister, in consultation with a Stephen Leader or pastor, may decide that the best way to care for a care receiver is to consult with a mental health professional. In such cases confidentiality is strictly maintained.

Referral to a Professional

Some care receivers end up needing professional care. In such a case, a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader will inform the care receiver and help him or her obtain the care he or she needs. That may mean that the caring relationship with the Stephen Minister will be interrupted or even have to end. When a care receiver needs professional care, the relationship with the Stephen Minister may continue only after the care receiver has met with the professional and the professional has given permission for the Stephen Ministry relationship to continue.

I understand the description of Stephen Ministry as explained in this agreement, and I desire to receive care from a Stephen Minister from Eastside Baptist Church. I further understand the confidentiality in Stephen Ministry as explained in this agreement, and I give my permission to my Stephen Minister and to the Stephen Leaders and pastoral or professional staff of Eastside Baptist Church to give and receive supervision and to obtain consultation as described in this document.

Signed: _____

Date: _____