



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT SERVING AS A STEPHEN MINISTER

Eastside

Question: *How much of my time will it really involve?*

Answer: There are 50 hours of training. As a Stephen Minister you will visit about once a week (for about one hour) with the person you are caring for. You will also attend two meetings per month for supervision and continuing education.

Question: *How much money will this cost?*

Answer: We are asking Stephen Ministers to pay half the cost of the training manuals. The manuals cost \$50 so that means a \$25 investment for you.

Question: *Will my phone be ringing constantly?*

Answer: No. You will care for one care receiver at a time. If the care receiver were to begin calling too often, you will learn to respond to too many phone calls or excessive demands in a loving, assertive manner. It probably won't arise, though.

Question: *Will the pastors still help and counsel people?*

Answer: Most definitely! Stephen Ministers complement the pastors' ministries and provide even more care to those who need it.

Question: *What if I get in over my head, with people who need more care than I can provide?*

Answer: First of all, you will never be knowingly assigned to people who might be in those situations. Second, Stephen Ministry training helps you to know exactly when and how to help your care receiver get professional help when necessary. The Supervision Group, the Stephen Leader, and the pastor are also there to help you to make such decisions.

Question: *How will I personally benefit from this experience?*

Answer: You will learn many skills that will be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry. The satisfaction of serving the Lord through helping another person is a wonderful blessing.

Question: *Do I have to stop being a Stephen Minister after two years?*

Answer: No, many people decide to continue as Stephen Ministers after two years. You and your Stephen Leader will make that decision when the time comes.

Question: *Who will be the care receivers?*

Answer: Care receivers are members of this congregation who are experiencing times of special need and occasionally other people within our community who turn to us for help. Thus, Stephen Ministry is a way to reach out to others as well as to care for our own members.

Question: *Will the care receiver really want my care?*

Answer: Yes. A pastor or Stephen Leader will meet first with the care receiver. Only after the care receiver understands Stephen Ministry and has agreed to meet with a Stephen Minister will you be contacted.

Question: *Are other people as scared as I seem to be about this undertaking?*

Answer: Probably so! But the training will eliminate much of this fear because you will not only learn what to say but also, and more importantly, how to *listen*.

Question: *How do I apply?*

Answer: Fill out the application form. You will then have an opportunity to meet with Pastor Ron Hughes and/or the Stephen Leader to ask any questions and make your final decision.