Why the name *Stephen*?
In Acts 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

What’s the difference between the *Stephen Series* and *Stephen Ministry*?
The *Stephen Series* is the overall ministry system—including training, resources, structure, and ongoing support—used by congregations to equip and empower a team of laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people.

*Stephen Ministry* is the ministry that happens when a congregation implements the *Stephen Series* system.

What are *Stephen Ministers*?
Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they’re equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation’s *Stephen Leaders*. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

In what types of situations do *Stephen Ministers* provide care?
Stephen Ministers provide care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles.

What are *Stephen Leaders*?
Stephen Leaders are the pastors, other church staff members, and lay leaders who are equipped to direct *Stephen Ministry* in their congregation. *Stephen Leaders* have gifts and skills in areas such as leadership, teaching, and organizing people, along with a heart for caring ministry.

What is a Leader’s Training Course?
A Leader’s Training Course (LTC) is a one-week event where pastors, other church staff, and lay leaders are equipped to serve as *Stephen Leaders*. They learn the *Stephen Series* system so they can establish and lead *Stephen Ministry* in their congregations.

Does the LTC train people to become *Stephen Ministers*?
It doesn’t—the LTC trains people to be *Stephen Leaders*, the ones who direct *Stephen Ministry* in the congregation. *Stephen Leaders* then train members of their congregation to serve as *Stephen Ministers* and provide care.

How does *Stephen Ministry* benefit pastors?
*Stephen Ministry* supports pastors by deepening, expanding, and extending the caregiving capacity of their congregations. A team of *Stephen Ministers*, together with a pastor, can provide ongoing care for more people than the pastor could provide alone. This also frees pastors to invest more time in other important ministry areas.

Do *Stephen Ministers* care for people outside their congregation?
Yes. *Stephen Ministers* often provide care for people in the broader community, enhancing and expanding a congregation’s outreach in a powerful way.
Will Stephen Ministry work in my situation?

Stephen Ministry works well in congregations of all sizes, demographics, and styles, including—

• Congregations with fewer than 100 members and more than 10,000.
• Congregations in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
• Congregations that are mainline, evangelical, traditional, contemporary, missional, and non-denominational.
• Congregations founded in the 1700s and in the current decade.

Stephen Ministry works in so many different situations because two factors are constant for every congregation:

1. There are always many more people in need of care, both in the congregation and in the community, than a pastor alone can care for.
2. There are always gifted laypeople capable of providing high-quality Christian care—if they’re trained and organized to do so.

What can Stephen Ministries organization?

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975. Our staff of 40 carry out our mission to “equip God’s people for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). Helping congregations get involved in the Stephen Series is a major way we accomplish this mission.