



# What Pastors Are Saying about Stephen Ministry

“Stephen Ministry is an invaluable tool for caring in our congregation. In just four years, our Stephen Ministers have given over 5,200 hours of one-to-one care to hurting people—and that’s a modest estimate! I’m so thankful for this ministry; it’s truly a way to live out the gospel.”

**Rev. Grant Pahlau**  
*Faith Evangelical Free Church*  
Fort Collins, Colorado

“The training is excellent, the materials are top notch, and the leadership support system has proven to be incredibly helpful. Every week I have someone thank me for having Stephen Ministry at our church.”

**Pastor Rick Darden**  
*Friends Community Church*  
Brea, California

“After 28 years, Stephen Ministry has touched nearly every family in our congregation—and many outside it too. It’s one of the greatest strengths of our congregation and a real benefit to us pastors.”

**Rev. Gary Bender**  
*St. Lorenz Lutheran Church*  
Frankenmuth, Michigan

“Stephen Ministry has had a definite impact on our church’s growth. Quite a few people from outside our congregation have joined after receiving care from a Stephen Minister—care they may not otherwise have received. I give thanks for our Stephen Ministry and the way it extends the church into the community.”

**Rev. Karl Neuschaefer**  
*Concord United Methodist Church*  
Roxboro, North Carolina

“My congregation surveyed lay caregiving models from around the world—and we found Stephen Ministry is the absolute best.”

**Rev. Dale Hanson**  
*St. Andrew’s Anglican Church*  
Kowloon, Hong Kong

“Our Stephen Ministers provide countless hours of care—ministry I’d never be able to provide by myself. Stephen Ministry empowers laypeople to follow Jesus’ model of love and compassion.”

**Rev. Evangeline Taylor**  
*The National Presbyterian Church*  
Washington, D.C.

“People often tell me, ‘My Stephen Minister was there for me when I needed it most.’ That’s exciting for a pastor to hear.”

**Rev. Dr. Ron Hughes**  
*Johnson Ferry Baptist Church*  
Marietta, Georgia

“There’s no way I could minister to so many without Stephen Ministers. They are my most valued lay partners in the one-to-one care of our parishioners. Stephen Ministry truly expresses what it means to care for one another in the Body of Christ.”

**Father John Boeglin**  
*Holy Family Catholic Church*  
Jasper, Indiana

“Stephen Ministry is a great training ground for lay leaders. Many of our Stephen Ministers serve for years as caregivers and then move into other leadership positions in the congregation.”

**Rev. Dr. Rosalind Denson**  
*West Side Missionary Baptist Church*  
St. Louis, Missouri

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“As a priest, I frequently care for people during times of crisis, but with so many parishioners, it’s impossible for me to provide all the follow-up care people need. That’s where Stephen Ministers are so valuable. They walk with hurting individuals for as long as needed—listening, caring, praying, and being Christ’s loving presence.”

**Father Michael Amadeo**  
**Holy Trinity Catholic Church**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**

“This training is so good and so well done that it has changed the way I view my ministry. I just wish we’d known about Stephen Ministry a long time ago.”

**Rev. Edroy “Curt” Curtis**  
**Havre Assembly of God**  
**Havre, Montana**

“Our Stephen Ministers are deeply committed to the ministry of our church. It’s a joy to see that so many hurting people are receiving care. They know that someone is there for them—and will be, for as long as needed.”

**Rev. Andrew Hall**  
**Community Bible Church**  
**Lucan, Ontario, Canada**

“Pastors have a marvelous resource looking back at them every Sunday morning: laypeople! If we equip them, bless them, and send them out in ministry, they can do amazing things. Stephen Ministry makes all that happen.”

**Rev. Dr. Ken Minton**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**Zephyrhills, Florida**

“Jesus tells us to care for each other, but too often we don’t know how or where to begin. Stephen Ministry offers the exact tools our church needs. It is continually transforming our congregation, not only in pastoral care but in all areas of our parish life and ministry.”

**Rev. Christine Beebe**  
**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
**Rutherfordton, North Carolina**

“Stephen Ministry is a steel beam strengthening our church behind the scenes. Without our Stephen Ministers offering care to those who need it, our congregation wouldn’t be nearly as strong.”

**Rev. Daryl Madi**  
**Greentree Community Church**  
**Kirkwood, Missouri**

“I’ve been a supporter of Stephen Ministry since day one! Not only does it complement my pastoral ministry, but it also gives laypeople the opportunity to grow in faith as they use their gifts to care for hurting people.”

**Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston**  
**Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

“To be missional, a congregation needs to be healthy. Stephen Ministry brings healing to hurting people in our congregation and also helps us reach out with care to people in the community.”

**Rev. Warren Freiheit**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Hot Springs Village, Arkansas**

For stories, videos, articles, and more information on pastors and Stephen Ministry, visit [stephenministries.org/pastors](http://stephenministries.org/pastors).