



To whom do Stephen Ministers provide care?

Care receivers with a variety of needs. The following life situations may warrant referral:

- Chronic and/or debilitating illness
- Terminal illness
- Recent major surgery or a new diagnosis
- Death of a loved one
- Unemployment
- Divorce in the last few months/year
- Severe financial setback
- Struggling with the decision to retire or adjusting to retirement
- The stress of moving
- Women expecting their first child, experiencing post-partum depression, who are dealing with infertility or miscarriage, or women who struggle to balance work and family
- Young people soon off to college or the military – parent or the young adult
- Those who are caregiving a family member
- Adult children contemplating placing their elderly parent in a LTC facility or assisted living
- Son or daughter supporting a parent through the death and funeral of a spouse
- Parent supporting an adult child through the pain of a divorce
- Those chronically on the prayer list
- Young families in crisis – whether related to the stresses of marriage or issues with children
- Those who have gone through any significant crisis in the last year



Who do Stephen Ministers NOT care for?

- Generally, SMs do not serve children
- Those who wish to receive care as a couple or a family
- Those needing professional counseling for conditions such as severe depression or personality disorder. However, with the consent of the congregant and their therapist, a SM may also be involved in supporting an individual.
- Those dealing with addiction or substance abuse disorder
- Those exhibiting suicidal thoughts or behaviors
- Those exhibiting violent thoughts or behaviors