



Stephen Minister Covenant

Stephen Ministry® Form

The congregation of *[church's name]* and *[Stephen Minister's name]* agree to this Covenant.

[Stephen Minister's name] is commissioned for the period from *[date]* to *[date]* to serve as a Stephen Minister for *[name of congregation]*. After this period, the Stephen Minister and the Stephen Leader Team may by mutual agreement renew this covenant for an additional term.

Through this covenant, the Stephen Minister agrees to

- ▶ Accept assignment of care receivers from the designated Referrals Coordinator and care faithfully for this care receiver.
- ▶ Attend twice-monthly supervision sessions.
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality with respect to his or her own care receiver and the care receivers of other Stephen Ministers during supervision.
- ▶ Promote the ongoing strength and effectiveness of the congregation's Stephen Ministry.

The congregation agrees to

- ▶ Provide Stephen Leaders trained at Stephen Series Leader's Training Courses to manage Stephen Ministry.
- ▶ Provide funding to train additional Stephen Leaders as needed.
- ▶ Provide funding for training Stephen Ministers.
- ▶ Maintain continued support and prayers for the Stephen Ministry program.

The Stephen Leaders agree to

- ▶ Encourage the continued growth of Stephen Ministers in prayer and spiritual maturity.
- ▶ Provide meaningful training for additional Stephen Ministers as needed.
- ▶ Conduct regular twice-monthly Small Group Peer Supervision and continuing education for Stephen Ministers and be available for individual supervision, when necessary.
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality of all Stephen Ministry caring relationships.
- ▶ Keep congregation leaders aware of and informed about Stephen Ministry in the congregation.
- ▶ Build continuing awareness of and support for Stephen Ministry within the congregation.

Stephen Minister _____

Stephen Leaders _____

Congregation Leader(s) _____



this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness.”¹³

7. I will serve without expecting or accepting financial reward.

Stephen Ministers give care freely without expecting return, never abusing the caring relationship by asking for or receiving favors, gifts, money, or other material benefits from a care receiver (other than small tokens of appreciation). “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.”¹⁴ “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”¹⁵ “Since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.”¹⁶

8. I will maintain confidentiality.

Stephen Ministers understand the importance of confidentiality and trust in the caring relationship, faithfully maintain confidentiality, and encourage other Stephen Ministers to do the same. “Set an example for the believers in speech.”¹⁷ “Speaking the truth in love.”¹⁸ “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”¹⁹

9. I will discipline myself to meet my care receiver's needs.

Stephen Ministers commit themselves to serve the needs of the care receiver and not their own needs, striving to understand themselves and their own motives, maintaining clear boundaries in caring relationships, and graciously accepting the guidance, decisions, and constructive comments of their Stephen Leaders and fellow Stephen Ministers. “If it is serving, let him serve; . . . if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously.”²⁰ “Pay close attention to

yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.”²¹

10. I will willingly receive direction and supervision.

Stephen Ministers receive their caregiving assignments from Stephen Leaders, visit their care receivers faithfully, and participate in regularly scheduled supervision in order to ensure quality Christian care for the care receiver. “But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”²²

Signature _____

Date _____

- 1 Mark 12:30
- 2 These terms are defined in *Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life* and at Stephen Series Leader's Training Courses. That is the meaning intended here.
- 3 Psalm 121:2
- 4 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 5 1 Corinthians 3:6
- 6 1 Peter 2:5
- 7 Hebrews 10:24–25 (NRSV)
- 8 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NRSV)
- 9 Galatians 5:22–23a (NRSV)
- 10 Romans 12:3
- 11 Proverbs 3:27 (NRSV)
- 12 Romans 13:13a, 14a
- 13 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7 (NRSV)
- 14 Hebrews 13:5a
- 15 Colossians 3:17 (NRSV)
- 16 Colossians 3:24 (NRSV)
- 17 1 Timothy 4:12
- 18 Ephesians 4:15a
- 19 Proverbs 12:18
- 20 Romans 12:7a, 8
- 21 1 Timothy 4:16 (NRSV)
- 22 1 Corinthians 14:40