

Stephen Minister's Covenant to Care



As a Stephen Minister . . .

1. I will seek to glorify God with a grateful heart.

Stephen Ministers are people of faith who seek to glorify God in all they say and do.

- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

2. I will depend on God for results in my caregiving.

Stephen Ministers demonstrate their dependence on God by praying for and with their care receivers, focusing on the process of care, and keeping in mind their role as caregiver and God's role as Caregiver.

- “My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2).
- “Pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

3. I will worship God regularly.

Stephen Ministers faithfully participate with God's people in worship and trust the Holy Spirit to renew and transform their lives and the lives of their care receivers.

- “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house . . . offering spiritual

sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

- “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24–25 NRSV).

4. I will promote respect among fellow ministers and church leaders.

Stephen Ministers promote a spirit of gentleness and peace among other Stephen Ministers, Stephen Leaders, pastors, church staff, and congregation members by behaving appropriately and respectfully toward them, speaking well of all, and thinking the best of others.

- “But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 NRSV).
- “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22b–23a NRSV).



5. I will help my care receiver find necessary care if he or she needs more than I can give.

If Stephen Ministers recognize signs of a need for care beyond what they can give, they seek help and supervision from Stephen Leaders and pastors in determining how best to proceed. They recognize their limitations as lay caregivers and, following the guidance of their Stephen Leaders, encourage a care receiver to accept help from a professional caregiver when the care receiver needs care beyond what a Stephen Minister can provide. In all these matters, Stephen Ministers do what is right in the sight of God and in accordance with applicable laws.

- “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought” (Romans 12:3).
- “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it” (Proverbs 3:27 NRSV).

6. I will guard against any form of physical or sexual misconduct.

Stephen Ministers—in their relationships with care receivers, fellow Stephen Ministers, and Stephen Leaders—guard against inappropriate comments, physical contact, or other sexual behavior that could harm individuals and families and threaten the reputation and effectiveness of Stephen Ministry in the congregation.

- “Let us behave decently, as in the daytime. . . . Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:13a, 14a).
- “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and

honor. . . . For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness” (1 Thessalonians 4:3–4, 7 ESV).

7. I will serve without expecting or accepting reward.

Stephen Ministers give care freely without expecting anything in return—never abusing the caring relationship by asking for favors, gifts, money, or other material benefits, or by receiving anything more than a small token of appreciation from their care receivers.

- “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:5a).
- “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” (Colossians 3:17 NRSV).
- “Since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:24 NRSV).

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” (1 Timothy 4:12).
- “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18).

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

Stephen Ministers commit themselves to serving the needs of their care receivers and not their own needs within the context of the caring relationship. They strive to understand themselves and their own motives, maintain clear boundaries in caring relationships, and graciously accept the guidance, decisions, and constructive comments of their Stephen Leaders and fellow Stephen Ministers.

- “If it is serving, let him serve; . . . if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:7–8).
- “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” (1 Timothy 4:16 NRSV).

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 their care receivers.

- “But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Signature _____

Date _____