



## **Centenary UMC is a Stephen Ministry Church**

The Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around your congregation.

The Stephen Series provides congregations with the structure, training, and resources to set up and administer a complete system for lay caring ministry (called Stephen Ministry) in the congregation. In Stephen Ministry congregations, lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministry helps pastors and congregations provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

### **Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?**

#### **People Who Need Care . . .**

Receive quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for their hurts and needs

Find hope, healing, and a new sense of self-worth through the support of a Stephen Minister

Know they are remembered and supported by their congregation in times of personal difficulty

Receive ongoing care for continuing needs long after the onset of a crisis, when many others have forgotten about them

Grow in a deeper relationship with their Lord as they experience God's unconditional love for them through their Stephen Minister

#### **Our Lay People . . .**

Discover, cultivate, and use the spiritual gifts they have been blessed with

See themselves as active partners in the mission and ministry of the church

Find all aspects of their lives enriched by the distinctively Christian caregiving skills they learn and practice

Experience great joy as they see God working through them to bring hope and healing to a hurting person

Grow spiritually as they experience the Lord's loving presence in community with other Christian caregivers

#### **Our Entire Congregation . . .**

Discovers that many members want to be involved in meaningful ministry and will respond to the call to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader

Becomes a more loving community that is more sensitive and responsive to people's needs for care

Is able to provide more quality Christian care, so that fewer people slip through the cracks

Is able to reach out to the unchurched who are hurting and introduce them to the

healing love of Jesus in their time of need

Sees itself as not only being served by the pastor, but as a caring body of believers actively involved in serving one another in love

**The Core Purpose (Mission) of Stephen Ministries:**

Stephen Ministries' Core Purpose is summed up in the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians:

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13).