

How Much Do You Know About Stephen Ministry?

It was just over a year ago that we began training our first group of Stephen Ministers. How much do you know about Stephen Ministry? Try the true-false quiz below to find out. Hey! No peeking!

1. Stephen Ministers are trained lay people.
2. Everyone in the congregation will know if I have a Stephen Minister.
3. Pastor Robin will stop visiting me if I have a Stephen Minister.
4. Stephen Ministers discuss their care receivers in supervision sessions.
5. My family can find out if I have a Stephen Minister.

1. True! Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are committed to providing Christian care for people who are experiencing many different needs. They are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends who can offer a listening ear to help others through the tough times in life.
2. False! Confidentiality is the foundation of Stephen Ministry. If you are matched with a Stephen Minister, only three people in addition to you will know about that relationship: Pastor Robin, AiM Linda, and your Stephen Minister.
3. Absolutely false! Pastor Robin will always be there if there is a crisis. But when you think about the number of people at Holy Spirit and the problems they each face, you can see that there just aren't enough hours in the day for her to meet all the needs of everyone. Our Stephen Ministers are part of Holy Spirit's pastoral care team. These Christian brothers and sisters love you and want to listen. When you are receiving care from one of them, Pastor Robin will still visit, but her visits can be less frequent because she knows you are in good hands.
4. True. Stephen Ministers participate in supervision so that they can learn from and help other Stephen Ministers. Names of care receivers are **NOT** used in these meetings. The care receiver's privacy is always respected and honored.
5. False. The only one who may give out that information is you! In fact, you can put a full-page ad in *The Carroll County Times* if you want to! But no one involved in Stephen Ministry will answer any questions from anyone about who is or is not receiving care.

If you are reading this online, [click here](#) to see the answers right-side-up!