



2023 Stephen Minister Application

Thank you for your interest in Stephen Ministry. We are delighted to know that you want to learn more about this extraordinary Care Ministry and are considering completing an application for the 2023 training class.

As part of the application process, we invite you to first take your spiritual gifts assessment at

<https://u.st.lukes.org/default.aspx?page=3774> to learn about your special God given spiritual gifts. If it's been more than five years since you last took the assessment, we ask that you take it again at this time. We also invite you to check out Stephen Ministries St. Louis (headquarters) website at stephenministries.org for more information about the ministry.

Stephen Ministers are very important to St. Luke's Care Ministries as they are trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment, etc. Stephen Ministers share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Because of this important and delicate ministry, it is critical that individuals who serve as Stephen Ministers go through discernment and training. After you submit your completed application, you will be scheduled for a meeting time of discernment during the timeframe of October 17 and November 30 with two Stephen Minister leaders. Not everyone is gifted and called to Stephen Ministry. Completing an application does not guarantee a spot in the training class.

Continue to pray about this opportunity to serve as a Stephen Minister and ask God for guidance. If you have any questions about the application process, feel free to contact the Care office at 407.876.4991, ext. 262 or Lisa Apikos, Stephen Minister Leader, at 321.356.8429. We are happy to assist you.

4. How would people who know you describe how you relate to others?

5. Are you now or have you ever been a Stephen Minister Care Receiver? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

If **yes**, someone from the Stephen Leader Team will speak with you about this so that the team may better understand its significance in your life and ministry. A great many caregivers have been made stronger in the caregiving ministry through the care they themselves have received.

6. Please describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.

7. a) Which church do you attend? _____

b) St. Luke's UMC currently facilitates Stephen Ministry training for several congregations. The Stephen Ministers currently share in the care of members of congregations other than those of their home church. Are you willing to share your caregiving with congregations other than your own? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

8. Have you ever trained and served as a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader somewhere else?

___ **Yes** ___ **No** If yes, please list where and when

9. Are you willing to commit to serve faithfully?

Service includes:

Committing to attend classroom training over three (3) months in addition to independent reading between classes.

Regular visits with your Care Receiver (usually weekly, 1 hour) once a Care Receiver is assigned to you.

Attending twice monthly Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision meetings - whether or not you have an assigned Care Receiver for continued education and peer support during your caring relationship.

Yes No

Please read and sign:

The information I have provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **I understand that completing an application does not automatically make me a candidate for Stephen Ministry training.** If selected, I agree to participate in Stephen Ministry training and Care Support meetings, and to function within the boundaries of the Stephen Ministry program.

Signature _____ Date _____

Next Steps

Email (care@st.lukes.org), mail or bring this application by **Sunday, October 16** to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 4851 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32819 Attention: Kim Paredes, Director of Care Ministries.

A member of St. Luke's Stephen Ministry Leadership team will contact you to schedule a meeting of discernment sometime between October 17 and November 30. During this meeting your questions on the program will be answered, and a conversation will be had to determine if this ministry is a good match for your unique gifts and talents. This meeting usually lasts approximately one hour.

The Stephen Ministry training sessions start Tuesday, January 10. Training sessions will be delivered using Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If possible, in-person trainings will be incorporated into the training sequence.

Any Questions? Contact Kim Paredes at kparedes@st.lukes.org, office: 407-876-4991 ext. 262; or Lisa Apikos, Stephen Minister Leader, at lapikos@gmail.com or 321-356-8429.

