

Now what?

For help or more information, please place this form in the offering plate or leave it for Associate Pastor Alice Coder in the Church Office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

___ Help for me or another

___ I'm interested in becoming a
Stephen Minister

Each application is confidential and includes an interview with a Stephen Minister, Associate Pastor and/or a Stephen Leader .



Please contact
Rev. Alice Coder,
Associate Pastor, for more
information, to volunteer, or to
receive care for yourself or
someone you love.

972-423-4506
acoder@firstmethodistplano.org

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, and to share God's love can help you get through the stress, uncertainty, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

first united methodist church plano
reaching more people . growing deeper in faith
feeling smaller . acting more compassionately

3160 East Spring Creek Pkwy
Plano TX 75074
972-423-4506
www.firstmethodistplano.org

First United Methodist
Church Plano

Stephen Ministry



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Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide individual, confidential care to adults in

the midst of difficult life issues such as

- ✧ significant loss
- ✧ separation or divorce
- ✧ serious medical problems
- ✧ job or financial crisis
- ✧ spiritual crisis, or
- ✧ *any* life-changing event

and would like a Christian friend who knows how to care and listen.

A Stephen Minister is ...

- ✧ A trained layperson who visits each week, listens compassionately, and helping you make your own decisions, *not* a problem solver telling you what to do.
- ✧ A caring friend offering resources and referrals if needed.
- ✧ A Christian friend who prays with and for you.
- ✧ An extension of the pastoral care ministry of the church, *not* a casual visitor *nor* a professional counselor.

Stephen Ministers also

- serve pew communion and
- make weekend hospital visits.

FUMC Plano Stephen Ministers

- **Maintain confidentiality.** You can be assured that your confidences will be kept.
- **Provide individual *Christian* care.** Stephen Ministers meet privately one-on-one with a care receiver of the same sex.
- **Are trained to listen well.** We listen, clarify, encourage, and give support and hope.
- **Have strong program support.** Started in 1998, First Plano's Stephen Ministry program maintains a number of active trained Stephen Ministers. Trained Stephen Leaders effectively manage the program and meet with other Plano Churches who also belong to the Plano Stephen Ministry Alliance.

Training:

- Stephen Ministers receive more than 50 hours of initial training as well as ongoing education during their three-year commitment period.
- Stephen Leaders attend a full week of training.

Confidential application.

Each applicant can expect an interview with our congregation's Associate Minister for Congregational Life, Rev. Alice Coder, a Stephen Minister and/or Stephen Leader.



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