

THE LISTENING WELL

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Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry started in 1975 by Dr. Kenneth Haugk. As a pastor, clinical psychologist, author and educator, Haugk saw a great need in his own congregation for helping people get through trying times. Since he didn't have adequate time to spend with every person, he turned to his congregation for help. Dr. Haugk wanted his venture to be spiritual in nature, so he searched the scriptures for a basis. He chose Acts 6:2-5a, where Stephen was among seven disciples selected to serve among the people, full of faith and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Thus, Stephen Ministry was born to bring the body of Christ together as partners in ministry. Some people find it hard to admit they need help, but in fact, realizing that one needs help in a life transition and then seeking that help is a sign of strength, as well as an opportunity to grow personally and spiritually.

There is great benefit in talking to an objective person when it isn't possible or practical to share with a family member or other friend. A Stephen Minister is ready to be that person who might be of help as a confidential, active listener and a compassionate caregiver.