

OPP 7.2 STEPHEN MINISTRY

PURPOSE

This Operating Policy and Procedure (OPP) outlines the purpose, responsibilities, and oversight mechanisms of the Stephen Ministry program in accordance with the Bylaws of Round Rock Christian Church.

PURPOSE OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

To provide a one-on-one ministry caring for members of the congregation by trained lay leaders, who are known as *Stephen Ministers* and *Caregivers*, that addresses all three RRCC avowed strategies:

- ***Worship***
 - Help meet the needs of people who struggle in life and/or in faith
 - Commit to regular attendance at services
 - Value prayer as essential to their care-giving
- ***Serve***
 - Complements and expands the pastor's care, giving the pastor freedom to focus more time where his/her care is most needed.
 - Communicates the biblical truth that all Christians are called to love and care for one another.
 - Helps the congregation see itself as a caring body of believers actively involved in serving one another in love.
- ***Grow***
 - Gifted *Caregivers* grow in faith as they use their gifts in ministry and see God working through them to touch the lives of others.
 - Regular participation in continuing education and supervision to support and enhance the capabilities of Caregivers.
 - *Care Receivers* are blessed with growth opportunities through a deeply caring relationship and through encouragement and affirmation of worth.

BACKGROUND

The Stephen Ministry program was initiated in Round Rock Christian Church in 1995. It was reactivated in 2018. It has received the endorsement of the Sr. Minister, Administrative Team, The Elders Ministry, and the Guiding Board. A one-time fee (currently \$1675) continues in effect and requires no dues.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

The National Stephen Ministry motto, "Christ Caring for People Through People," captures the core truths about what Stephen Ministry is and does. Congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations have built upon the solid theological foundation of Stephen Ministry, incorporating the distinctive beliefs and practices of their own faith traditions.

TRAINING, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

- The *Stephen Leader*
 - Is a church member who is active in personal worship, service and growth, and is committed to the mission and vision of the congregation as he/she serves as a volunteer
 - Has completed both *Stephen Ministry* (Caregiver) training and *Stephen Leadership* training through the national organization
 - Is selected by the Sr. Minister and approved by the Guiding Board
 - Represented by the Elders representative to the Ministries Council
- *Stephen Ministers* (Caregivers) are
 - Are church members who are active in personal worship, service and growth, and are committed to the mission and vision of the congregation as he/she serves as a volunteer
 - Selected as candidates for the program by the St. Minister and the Stephen Leader
 - Receive training endorsed by the national organization
 - Serve under the *Stephen Leader* and the supervision of the pastor
- The Sr Minister of the congregation serves as adviser to the Stephen Ministry program

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Annually, according to the Financial Team timeline, prepare the budget for this Ministry for the coming year.
- Annually, in January, according to the timeline of the Guiding Board, review this OPP and revise when necessary.

SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT

- Support and oversight of this ministry is given to the:
 - Senior Minister - advisor
 - Elders Ministry
 - Advisory
 - Elder representative on Ministries Council represents Stephen Ministry
 - Financial Team –budget
 - Guiding Board – OPP (Operating Policies and Procedures)

AUTHORITY

The *Bylaws* of Round Rock Christian Church and *RRCC OPP 1.4 – Ministry Designations*. The Guiding Board designates and establishes ministries to carry out the mission of the congregation.

DATE CREATED: October 2018

LAST REVIEW and REVISION: June 30, 2019

APPROVED BY THE GUIDING BOARD: July 15, 2019