



Stephen Letter #11: Final Call for 2026 Trainees

(from Myron & Kendra Kirkpatrick)

As promised in our late May letter, we returned from the relatively cool north country on July 30th. We had an enjoyable trip with our little Scamp travel trailer, visiting family and friends in Washington and Oregon and revisiting some favorite sites in Idaho, Utah, and northeastern Nevada on the way back – while also gradually preparing ourselves for the 112° blast furnace that awaited us on our arrival. Seriously, it's good to be back and it's time to get to work on our first Stephen Minister training class, which is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week in November.

As of today (August 10th), **two women** have signed up for the class presently scheduled to begin on **Sunday afternoon, November 1st**. **One man** would also very much like to be in the class but is not yet sure his other commitments will permit. If **you** feel the call to join us in restarting this important and rewarding ministry, here is the most important thing you need to know...

the absolute deadline for completed applications is Sunday, September 13th.

This deadline is necessary in order for us to have time to interview you, check your references, review your application with the Pastor, obtain the required background check, and order your training materials. You can either take an application from the Stephen Ministry mailbox (among the boxes located in the hall just outside the Pastor's office) or see one of us at a Sunday worship service and we will get you one on the spot. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us at church or by phone (541-398-2336 for Kendra or 541-398-1960 for Myron).

Looking forward, if all goes as planned, our trainees will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers next March and begin serving no later than early April. At that time, we (Kendra and Myron) will also make ourselves available to serve as both Stephen Ministers and Leaders for the first couple of years, effectively giving MUMC four or five Stephen Ministers as we continue the search for more.

So again, in thinking about what you can most effectively be doing for the members of our church and others in our community, please give Stephen Ministry your most careful and prayerful consideration. And keep in mind: the only way there will be Stephen Ministers to support you and us through life's difficulties that most assuredly lie ahead is if we train them now – it will be too late if we wait until we actually need them!

We hope and pray that you will join us...

Myron & Kendra