

Director of Stephen Ministries - Donald H. Hering

Don was raised on a farm in Southern Ohio as the second oldest of five children. He was baptized as a Presbyterian in one of the oldest churches in the Cincinnati area. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1958, was commissioned in 1963 and retired in 1990 as a Colonel after having served throughout the Pacific and the Middle East. During that period of time he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Eastern Kentucky, Richmond, Ky, was married to his wife, Stella of 46 years and counting, was an infantry commander of a platoon and company in combat in the Republic of South Vietnam, and later went on to serve as a battalion and regimental commander, and as commander of a Marine Amphibious Unit which included all aspects of a combined arms team; aviation, artillery, and armor. In addition, during that time frame, besides being a student in successive schools through all ranks, to include the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, he served as an instructor at several Marine Corps Schools. At the rank of Major he was an instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point for three years. He served as a recruiter at Southern California universities and colleges, and was the Commanding officer of a Marine Detachment serving aboard a submarine tender as the security officer for a squadron of Polaris equipped nuclear submarines.

After retiring in July 1990 he started a new career and served for thirteen years as the data center manager for Florida Hospital in Orlando. During this period he was also a member of Wekiva Presbyterian Church in Longwood, Fl., where he served as a Deacon and on the Session as well as becoming a Stephen Minister in 1994.

After retiring to Ruskin to be near the four grandchildren, he was certified as a Long Term Care Ombudsman in May 2004 and has since served as that program's State Chair for two years and is currently serving as the Vice Chair. In addition he currently serves on the Board of Directors at the West Central Area Agency on Aging, representing Hillsborough County, and is a Deacon and Stephen Minister at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.