



# About BeFrienders

## BECOMING A BEFRIENDER

There are two stages in becoming a BeFriender.

- **BeFriender candidate.** A candidate for lay ministry. Candidates receive training and serve an internship prior to discerning with a program leader whether their skills and abilities are a match for BeFriender Ministry.
- **BeFriender.** A lay minister who has completed the candidate requirements and has been commissioned by the church to serve on its behalf.

## VOLUNTEER TIME GUIDELINES

The following are general guidelines. You can determine what expectations for volunteer commitment work best in your church.

### BeFriender candidate

- Candidate training, 21 hours
- Internship during a 2-month period (at least 2 visits with each of 2 people), 4 hours
- Group meetings during 2-month internship, 8-10 hours

### BeFriender

- Befriending, average of 4 hours per month
- Regular group meetings, 4-5 hours per month
- Suggested minimum term of service, 1-2 years

## RECRUITING, INTERVIEWING, AND SELECTING

In the Foundations workshop, program leaders receive materials to use for all aspects of recruiting, interviewing, and selecting BeFriender candidates. The materials provided can be used “as is” or customized to your needs. They include interview guides and descriptions of the responsibilities and qualities of a BeFriender.



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