

Growing Spiritually as an Elder

Laying on of Hands Prayers



Disciples Pray

For many Disciples of Christ members, this practice is only seen at ordination services where persons are set apart for ministry. The practice of laying on of hands is available to all who feel it's call. Below are ideas of how you might use the laying on of hands ministry among the Elders.

- 1) With one person in the middle of the circle, gather around with all others present, touching the head or the shoulder of the one in the middle. The person in the middle may kneel, sit or stand. If the group is large and all cannot reach the center person, additional circles may be formed around the original circle with those folks hands touching the shoulders or backs of those touching the prayer recipient. One person or a number of persons may pray for God's guidance, healing, or commissioning of the person at the center.
- 2) Another way to do this is for the group to stand in a line with each touching the one in front of them and praying for the person at the front of the line. When than prayer is done, the person at the front of the line goes to the back and the group begins prayers for the new person in the front. The prayer can be silent or led by the person right behind the front person. Another ripple effect laying on of hands line can be done with each person in line saying one sentence prayer for the person in the front. The prayers can be started at the front or the back of the line. This works best in a small space where the sound will not get swallowed, or you can do this in an arch so that you can hear each other better.
- 3) It can be quite affirming to invite your pastor for a laying on of hands by the Elders as a prayer of gratitude for his/her leadership and/or a prayer for guidance and strength. You might also offer to have the officers of the congregaton come for a laying on of hands by the Elders.

