



Articles of Faith Statement

We believe in the laying on of hands by ministers as an ordinance within the church body which may be used for ordination, healing, reception of the Holy Spirit and dedication of children, and was widely practiced within the New Testament Church.

Key Scriptures

- *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* — James 5:13–16 (NIV)
- *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you."* — 1 Timothy 4:13–14 (NIV)
- *"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized."* — Acts 9:17–18 (NIV)
- *"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."* — Acts 13:2–3 (NIV)
- *"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' ... And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."* — Mark 10:13–16 (NIV)

Insights

The laying on of hands is a practice deeply rooted in Scripture and carried forward into the life of the church. It is a physical act symbolizing the transfer of blessing, the affirmation of calling, or the impartation of God's power and presence.



James 5 teaches that the laying on of hands, accompanied by prayer, is part of God's provision for healing. The physical touch represents God's nearness and the unity of the church as it intercedes for the sick.

In 1 Timothy 4:14 and Acts 13:2–3, laying on of hands affirms the call of God on individuals for ministry. It is not that the elders impart power themselves, but rather they recognize and affirm God's calling, setting apart the person for service.

Acts 9 shows Ananias laying hands on Saul (later Paul), leading to his healing and the filling of the Holy Spirit. This moment highlights both restoration and empowerment for mission.

Finally, in the Gospels, Jesus lays His hands on children to bless them, showing His compassion, accessibility, and love. This reminds us that God's touch extends to the most vulnerable.

Throughout Scripture, the laying on of hands is both symbolic and practical. It demonstrates God's power at work in healing, calling, blessing, and dedicating His people. It also reminds the church that ministry and spiritual growth are never private endeavors—we are part of a body that blesses, supports, and confirms one another in Christ.

Application

The laying on of hands calls us to recognize God's work in one another's lives. Whether in healing, ordination, or blessing, it demonstrates the importance of community and shared faith.

For us today, this practice encourages us to pray boldly for others, to affirm and encourage spiritual gifts, and to bless those God has placed in our care. Laying on hands is not magic—it is an act of obedience and love that expresses unity in the body of Christ.

Consider who in your life may need prayer, encouragement, or affirmation. As a church, we should be ready to surround the hurting, the called, and the young with prayerful support. Through this, we reflect the heart of Christ, who touched the sick, blessed children, and empowered disciples to live faithfully.



WAVERLY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Articles of Faith - Week 9
Laying On of hands

1. Why do you think God gave the church a physical practice like the laying on of hands?

2. How does James 5 connect prayer, faith, and physical touch in the process of healing?

3. What does laying on of hands during ordination or commissioning communicate to the person being sent?

4. How can this practice remind us of the importance of community in the Christian life?

5. In what ways can we, as individuals and as a group, use this practice to bless others today?
