

Tips for Lay Anointing Ministry

1. Healing Ministries arise from prayer – it is strongly recommended that intentional prayer groups form within a church. Not all folks in the prayer group need to be the anointers.
2. It is recommended that parish study groups be established to learn about prayer and sacrament in the ministry of healing.
3. Lay Anointers must complete a training day offered by the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries prior to being licensed by their bishop.
4. The priest must apply to the bishop for the license.
5. The Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries has Lay Anointer's Training Days twice a year usually in the spring and the autumn. You may contact The Rev. Canon Joanne Davies about the training day or with questions about the process. Joanne.davies@mac.com
6. Among the more than 200 times that oil is mentioned in the Bible, the connection as a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and action is clear. The use of oil reminds us of our connection and obedience to Jesus' call to healing ministry as followers and disciples.
7. Those who become licensed lay anointers may minister through prayer and sacramental anointing with oil. They may not minister through sacramental laying on of hands.
8. Lay anointers are licensed for a three-year period. Licenses then must go through the process of renewal. It is the clergy's responsibility to approach the bishop for the initial license and the subsequent renewal(s).
9. When the incumbent leaves the parish the lay anointer's license ceases. A new incumbent may approach the area bishop to have the lay anointers re-licensed. If a significant amount of time has passed, attending a training day may be suggested.
10. If the lay anointer moves parishes their license ceases. They must be re-licensed in the new parish.
11. As well as anointing in a public healing service lay anointers may, with the permission and awareness of the priest, anoint parishioners in nursing homes, hospitals or at home.
12. It is recommended that when a parish includes healing in a service, it be included as part of the regular Eucharistic liturgy, typically following the prayers of the people and before the peace and the preparation of the Gifts. (BAS, page 553)

Submitted by The Rev Canon Joanne Davies, chair of the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries.

