

# Healing Proposal

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Divine Healing  
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**Context:**

My church is a part of the Christian Missionary Alliance. As a denomination, I know we have a rich history of healing ministry. In fact, it is written into our DNA of the fourfold gospel of Christ the Savior, Christ the Healer, Christ the Sanctifier, and Christ the Coming King. We have testimonies from the beginning of the movement to the present day from all over the world of God's healing power. Some of the most radical healings I have seen have been in CMA gatherings. Yet, our big tent stance allows for a wide variety in how each church pursues healing. There are some churches who press in for it weekly and others who will only pray and anoint with oil when they must (a limited James 5 model). My current CMA church is closer to the latter.

In the three and half years I have been at my church, we have only had the elders available once in service for healing. Another time, the pastors were available at the end of the men's retreat service. I know several times people have called the elders to come to anoint them with oil. There is not a healing ministry that is truly visible at my church. However, when we taught about the fourfold gospel this spring and had the elders available to pray for healing lots of people showed up. Many people asked if we could pray for healing more often and not so rarely. Since healing is in our DNA of movement, plus we have people with Anaheim Vineyard background (working with John Wimber and Peter Wagner) and it is something that my senior pastor believes in the church is ripe with potential to have this as a part of the ministry.

**Proposal:**

This is a three-step plan I would propose to my board. Step one would be eldership buy-in and praying for healing. Step two would be training adults and kids in praying for healing. Step three is

making space for healing ministry to take place. Each of these steps has several components to them and will be further discussed in the following paragraphs. In conclusion, I will summarize where we need to be now but will also have dreams of where I could see the church moving towards.

### **Step 1: Elders Buy- In and pray for healing**

The current elders are wise men. They were more than willing two months ago to go along with my “crazy” idea of having them pray for anointing people and praying for healing. Almost all of them participated. They have an idea that they should be doing it as elders, but I do not think it is something they are regularly suggesting to members who have ailments. The buy-in that I would seek be them wanting to do this on a regular basis.

How I would go about this buy would be having a session on studying James 5. I would do this at the beginning of every new term for elders (January). As they review what the elder is and does. This could be part of their teaching. I believe the current and future elders would not be opposed to praying for healing.

The next part of this step is training them to pray for healing and make it a regular part of their job at the church. When we did our service a couple of months ago, I sent them Walborn’s prayer model. This was fine but, in the future, before we pray again for people, I would like to do live teaching and demonstration of what that would look like instead of throwing them into it without practice. This demonstration and teaching of the healing model would best be at their elder retreat in the spring.

There are two ways to make this regular part of their ministry as the elders. The first is I would have them in service to pray specifically for healing once a quarter (5th Sunday?). This way people know that they can count on elders being made available to pray on a regular basis without having to

make an appointment with them. This would also allow the elders to be visible to those who would want more prayer as trained ministers and gain comfort in praying for the sick. The second way I would make them more available to pray for healing is to make sure we have it posted in our printed materials that elders can be called for the anointing of oil and prayer for healing. Right now, it is just by word of mouth that people know that elders can be called. Even then it is not them who are ever called to pray but pastors. This is fine but I do not think our people know that it is even an option. Therefore, I would place elders available for healing prayer on our website, bulletin, and social media platforms.

### **Step 2a: Training Adults in healing ministry**

There is a two-prong approach I would take in training adults. First, of this being, I would have a seminar on “How to pray for my friends and neighbors.” The premise is simply that most people do not refuse prayer and we can be bold with asking people about asking people to pray for them. A lot of people get intimidated by not having the ‘right’ words when they pray. During this training, I would focus on having them learn to hear God’s voice in a straightforward way and getting their religious language out of them. Then I would teach the prayer model to them as well.

The other way I would train adults would be to focus on small group leaders. Right now, we are in the process of deciding on what we want to train our small group leaders in. I think being aware that there are broken people coming to their small group is important in having a small group. A modified lecture from divine healing on emotional healing would be helpful to this group. When presenting this information, I would focus on the question “What is behind the emotion aka what is the root of this presenting problem?” This would allow small groups to go deep with each other and be Christ’s hands

and feet for one another. This way emotional healing can be done in a way that is in a supportive and ongoing community.

### **Step 2b: Training Kids in Healing Ministry**

Kids are not junior disciples. They don't get a junior spirit of God. Therefore, we must train them and release them to do the works of the ministry as well. I have taught hearing God's voice and prayer model on Sunday morning. However, it has not had a great response yet. I will continue model praying for healing when we pray but there is a more specific approach that needs to be taken.

In the summer, we invite our 4th-6th graders into our Leaders-in-Training program. It is a discipleship intensive. We do Bible surveys, spiritual disciplines, spiritual gifts, and a bunch of other topics. This time around we will teach the prayer model and have them practice it within that context. During the year, that allows me to have kids come up front and pray for kids during Sunday School.

### **Step 3: Creating Space**

We currently have only a few people available to pray with people after services and typically no one responds. I think we need to have more altar teams train in prayer model so we have more people available after service so people in general know they can be prayed for. With the elders being the prayer team once a month specifically for healing.

The second way we create space is by having small groups commit to a time of praying for each other and specifically for needs of healing as well. This is going to push our small group leaders to limit some of their teaching and fellowship time to make space for ministry time. It also needs a safe space created there so people can go after specific healing and not generalize requests.

The last way we create space is to have a twice-a-year healing service. This would be a basic healing service where we worship, preach healing, share testimonies, and lay hands on people. I think if we moved this from a Sunday morning to an evening this would allow more people to come.

**Conclusion:**

Healing ministry is the ministry of Jesus. Therefore, it is the ministry of the church. My proposal to my church focuses has a few particulars to it but it really comes down to two things: get as many people trained in how to minister healing prayer by listening to what the Father is doing and creating space in both our large and small gatherings for Jesus to do what he does. It is not overly complicated, but it is powerful.

I have dreams of the church having twice a month healing rooms open to the public. One week led by children and the other by adults. I see our children being the ministry team alongside the adults. I see our teens and young adults going out on a Friday night to see whom they can minister to in the power of God and seeing them move up the Engel scale. We will need to establish the foundations before we will be able to do these. Parkside can and will see many saved, healed, and set free in the years to come.