

## **CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL STOLING CELEBRATION**

### **(ABBREVIATED VERSION)**

#### **Procedure:**

At a time and place mutually agreed upon by the Presiding Elder or Pastor and the Lay Council President, the Life Members would gather wearing their Stoles as specified in the guidelines. The Presiding Elder or Pastor or his/her designee would lead the reading of the Litany of Commitment and Dedication of the Life Member Stole.

#### **THE LIFE MEMBERS STOLING CELEBRATION**

**Background Musical Selection:** “Lord Prepare Me to Be A Sanctuary”

**Leader:** We have gathered here today for the office of Stoling Connectional Lay Council Life Members. Will the persons who have elected to be stoled come forward? (Names are called)

Your decision to be stoled confirms your special rank in the cadre of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connectional Lay Council Life Members. Further, you are acknowledging that Lay Council Membership represents a specific genre of Kingdom building in your life and in Zion Methodism.

Your declaration to become a Life Member was indeed a noble choice. Wearing the stole affirms your interest in the promulgation of Christ through the medium of the Connectional Lay Council. In the presence of God and your peers, you recognize your calling and your answer to serve God and to serve Zion Methodism. May we now hear the color code for the Life Members Stole?

**Assistant:** The Black color represents our inherent pride in ethnicity and our race. The Gold is representative of our commitment to excellence in every aspect of our lives. Our purpose is ratified by the Connectional Lay Council logo on your Stole.

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**Leader:** Please join me in the Litany of Commitment and Dedication Service. By the wearing of this Stole do you commit yourself to the Objective Deepen the Spiritual Life of the Laity?

*Laity: I do.*

**Leader:** By the wearing of this stole do you commit yourself to the objective to Disseminate Information?

*Laity: I do.*

**Leader:** By the wearing of this stole do you commit yourself to the Objective to Cultivate Denominational Loyalty?

**Laity:** *I do.*

**Leader:** By the wearing of this stole do you commit yourself to the objective to Expand the Denomination Through Education and Evangelism?

**Laity:** *I do.*

**Leader:** By the wearing of this stole do you commit yourself to the objective to Promote Any Other Interest of The Kingdom of God?

**Laity:** *I do. I will endeavor to volunteer to use my spiritual gifts to support local Church programs and activities such as Sunday School, Bible School and Scouting; I will strive to become active in community service projects and community action program; I will look to encourage the unsaved in the Church and the community by witnessing and sharing my faith; It will be my hope and prayer that they might become believers and be led to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ; Thereby, preparing Laity for a life of service in the Kingdom of God.*

**Leader:** We dedicate this stole to the glory of Jesus Christ as Savior, and to His honor as Head of our lives. The stole serves as a symbol and reminder of your commitment to fulfill the Objectives and Purpose of the Connectional Lay Council. May the stole be worn with determination to edify Lay ministries to the glory of God!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight, In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 NRSV

**Pastoral Prayer or Prayer in unison:** O God, we pledge to be faithful and follow the example given us in Jesus the Christ. We are thankful for your grace, mercy and sustaining power. Amen.