

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL STOLING CELEBRATION
(ORIGINAL STANDARD LAITY 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

Opening 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. I will endeavor to enhance my participation in the means of grace; Encourage others to “Come With Us To Christ”; I will make an effort to practice good stewardship of time, talent and material resources; Thereby, developing myself and others as Christian disciples.*

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

Laity: *I do. I will endeavor to regularly attend Members Meetings, Quarterly Conferences, and other important meetings and pledge to keep others informed of important conclusions; I will seek out the sick and homebound and keep them informed and engaged in the life of the Church; I will promote attendance at Lay Council meetings, Lay Academies and other Church sponsored educational activities; I will encourage the Laity to subscribe to and read official Church publications; Thereby, collaborating and cooperating across organizational, institutional and denominational boundaries to minister to the masses.*

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

Laity: *I do. I will strive to uplift the Church and the importance of Zion Methodism; I will endeavor to read and learn the history of Zion Methodism; I will endeavor to study and apply the Articles of Religion of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; I will strive to appreciate the structure and practice the polity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Thereby, the Laity is challenged to study the history of the denomination and jubilantly celebrate its rich legacy and to motivate future accomplishments.*

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. I will do my best to attend Members Meetings and Quarterly Conferences; Seek to learn more about the Church through District Meetings, Annual Conferences and Connectional Meetings; I will endeavor to read the Bible daily and any other supplemental literature that will help to increase my faith and relationship with God; I will endeavor to visit some of Zion's historic treasures for the purpose of education; Fellowship with other Zionites and invite the unsaved to "Come With Us To Christ" Thereby, helping others to know, worship and follow Christ in spirit and in truth.*

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 programs; 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

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.

(Optional) Musician plays:

"Take My Life and Let It Be" - No. 470 Bicentennial Hymnal

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