**Announcements**

**(***type other announcements here)*

Lay Sunday Offering Appeal

Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina will be the recipients of the 2018 Lay Sunday offerings. The Lay Sunday offering goal is to exceed $25,000. Our young people need our support. Let us sow some Lay Council seeds by investing in the future of these young people.

Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., our twelfth president of Livingstone College, has provided this statement to encourage our giving: *“Livingstone College and the AME Zion Church, known as the “Freedom Church,” are intimately linked together. Knowledge is freedom, and education is knowledge; and we know that education is the surest vehicle for upward mobility in the world. As in the past, the AME Zion Church continues its tradition of forging ahead, along the freedom trail, reminiscent of the journey of Harriett Tubman. The support that the church has provided Livingstone over its 138 years of existence has been the backbone to the continued survival of the college. At Livingstone College, we are literally setting young men and women free! We are creating change agents and helping to break the vicious cycle of poverty and I dare say that without the support that we get from the AME Zion Church, our story would be far more different, in a negative way. On behalf of the entire Livingstone College family, I want to thank Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President of the Lay Council of the AME Zion Church, for this fundraising initiative. The success of this initiative will allow the college to compete more effectively for academically talented students.”*

The Connectional Lay Council is devoted to making a difference in the lives of others. One way we continue to make a difference is through contributions received from the Connectional Lay Sunday offerings. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

All churches are asked to support Connectional Lay Sunday with a special offering. Please make all checks payable to the Connectional Lay Council and mail to Connectional Lay Council PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770.

**Connectional Lay Council**

**The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

**Connectional Lay Sunday**

**August 19, 2018**



**Connectional Lay Council Quadrennial Theme:**

***The Freedom Church:*** *Refocusing on our Purpose,* ***Reviewing our Practices****, Retooling our People, Reaching our Potential*

 ***Church Name*, A. M. E. Zion Church**

 *Name,* **Lay Council President**

 *Name*, **Pastor**

**Order of Service**

**Prelude**

**\*Processional** “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” (#529 *African American Heritage Hymnal*)

**\*Call To Worship Psalm 100**

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing? Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise! Be thankful unto Him and bless His name for the Lord is good. His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations.*

**Invocation** (*congregation in unison*)

Father, thank you that you have brought us safely to this place.

We surrender our lives to you in worship and praise.

As we gather we remember those who are not with us today -

For those who are sick we ask for healing,

And for those away from us we ask for your blessing to be on them.

We invite Your Holy Spirit to move freely amongst us.

Come dwell in each of our hearts.

May we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace.

We ask all this in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Choral Response** “Let It Breathe on Me” (#225 *AMEZ Bicentennial Hymnal*)

**\*Hymn of Praise** “A Charge to Keep I Have”(#439 *AMEZ Bicentennial Hymnal*)

**\*Responsive Reading Psalm 100**

*Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.***Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.***He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

*Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.*

**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;
**though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.**

*I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.***They are ever giving liberally and lending, and their children become a blessing.**

**Depart from evil, and do good; so you shall abide forever.**
*For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones.*

**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

**\*An Affirmation for Laity**

We the Active Members of the Connectional Lay Council do solemnly believe, and firmly advocate, and admirably support the following affirmation of Lay Operation.

* We endorse and need an articulate Self Purpose
* We endorse and need open minds, a faith in Christian Religion
* We endorse and need people who understand all sides to questions, for herein is wisdom
* We endorse and need human decency, good manners, humor and compassion, for each must be considered as blessed as we
* We endorse and need openness, truthfulness and honesty
* We endorse and need courage to stand for each creedal, it is our rock of affirmation

Our mission thus remains as stated that of actively involving more people for Peace, Justice, Christian Teaching and Living for the Brotherhood of Man, Under the Fatherhood of God, and the Leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

**Scripture Lessons**

 **Old Testament –** 1 Kings 8:54-64

**\*Gloria Patri**

 **New Testament –** Romans 12:1-8

**Prayer**

**Prayer Hymn** “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (#492 AME Bicentennial Hymnal)

**Choral Selection**

**Ministry of Kindness**

**Announcements**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Hymn of Preparation**  #681 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

**The Lay Sunday Message**

**\*Invitation to Christ Discipleship/ Hymn of Invitation**

**Rededication of Laity** “Litany for Rededication of Laity”

**Offering Appeal *(including the Lay Sunday appeal)***

**Tithes & Offerings** ***(including the Lay Sunday Offering)***

**Offertory Response**

 **\*Recessional Hymn** “Onward Christian Laity”

**Lay Council Closing Prayer:** Oh God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forever more. Amen.

**Choral Benedictory** “Lord, Make Me More Holy” (#632 African American Heritage Hymnal)

**GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH**

THEME HYMN

**I**. Guide me, O Thou great Je-ho-vah, Pil-grim thro’ this bar-ren land;

I am weak, but Thou art might-y, Hold me with Thy power-ful hand;

 Bread of heav-en, Feed me ‘til I want no more;

 Bread of heav-en, Feed me ‘til I want no more.

**II.** O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain, Whence the heal-ing waters flow;

 Let the fi-rey, cloud-y pil-lar Lead me all my jour-ney through;

 Strong De-liv-erer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;

 Strong De-liv-erer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

**III**. When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious fears sub-side;

 Bear me through the swell-ing cur-rent, Land me safe on Ca-naan’s side;

 Songs of praises, I will ev-er give to Thee;

 Songs of praises, I will ev-er give to Thee.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Onward Christian Laity**

**I.** Onward Christian Laity; Working side by side,

Pray God’s blessings on us, And our feet to guide.

 Love our neighbor and forgive; Lend a helping hand,

 Never be too proud to serve God and our fellow-man.

**II**. Onward Christian Laity; Working hard for God,

We must tread the same path, that Our Savior trod.

We must bear our crosses, But continue on,

Knowing at the judgment, We’ll receive our crown.

**REFRAIN**

 Onward Christian Laity; Working side by side,

Pray God’s blessings on us, and our feet to guide.

 **\*** To the tune of “Onward Christian Soldiers”

Words by Charlotte Riggins, New Jersey Conference

**Litany for Rededication of Laity**

**The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

**Lay Leader:** As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to serve God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and humanity.

***Laity:*** *By deepening our Spiritual Life.*

**Lay Leader:** As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to disseminate information.

***Laity:*** *By gathering and sharing information about our heritage, traditions, and the mission of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*.

**Lay Leader:** As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to be true to God and our denomination.

**LAITY:** *By cultivating our loyalty to God and The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.*

**LAY LEADER:** As Laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to expand our denomination.

**LAITY:** *We are committed to expanding our denomination through education of ourselves and others; by evangelizing to the unsaved and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God.*

**Lay Leader:** Today we *Rededicate ourselves to* the objectives and purpose of the Connectional Lay Council of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

**ALL:** *Today, we Rededicate ourselves to be faithful to God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and to the mission of the Church of Christ universal to make disciples.*