



**CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL**  
**The AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

Post Office Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Telephone (704) 599-4630 Ext. 2566 - Fax (704) 688-2551  
Email Address: [clcoffice@amezhqtr.org](mailto:clcoffice@amezhqtr.org)



**QUADRENNIAL THEME: "THE FREEDOM CHURCH: REFOCUSING ON OUR PURPOSE,  
REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES, RETOOLING OUR PEOPLE, REACHING OUR POTENTIAL."**

March 11, 2020

Dear Members of the AME Zion Church,

**Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.**  
Chairman Board of Lay Activities

**Bishop Hillard Dogbe**  
First Vice Chairman

**Bishop Joseph Johnson, Retired**  
Second Vice Chairman

**Mrs. Lynda Byrd,**  
Third Vice Chair

**Dr. Mary J. Matthews**  
International President

**Ms. Leondras Davis**  
First Vice President

**Mrs. Connie Bell-Wright**  
Second Vice President

**Mrs. Mireille Landrum**  
Secretary

**Mr. Ned Highsmith**  
Financial Secretary

**Ms. Cynthia White**  
Treasurer

**Mr. William Manning**  
Chaplain

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the cancellation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Lay Convocation scheduled for March 19-21, 2020 at Simon Temple AME Zion Church in Fayetteville, NC. The cancellation was made in the wake of the Coronavirus. Over the past few weeks, the Connectional Lay Council leadership and staff have been monitoring new information posted by the news media and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) related to the Coronavirus.

North Carolina's Governor Roy Cooper announced a state of emergency for North Carolina due to the Coronavirus during a press conference on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The Board of Lay Activities and the CLC Executive Board met and both agreed that it is in the best interest of the AME Zion Church to cancel the event. The health of our members remains a priority for the CLC.

Everyone is asked to, cancel your hotel, and flight reservations. I have a proclamation from Gov. Roy Cooper announcing a state of emergency for North Carolina. It can be provided to persons requesting reimbursement from the airlines for ticket purchases.

You do not need to contact the Connectional Lay Council directly to request a refund. The CLC is committed to refunding the registration to all participants, candidates and vendors. We ask for your patience as we make the reimbursements.

At a later date and prior to the 51<sup>st</sup> General Conference, The Connectional Lay Council will look at doing a Virtual Meeting "Video Conferencing" to share the Convocation information that has been prepared.

We recognize that the CLC will experience a significant financial loss due to cancellation. If anyone desires to donate their registration fee or a portion of it to the CLC, your generosity and support would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in donating your registration or a portion of it; please contact the CLC Office at 704-599-4630, extension 2566 or [clcoffice@amezhqtr.org](mailto:clcoffice@amezhqtr.org).

We acknowledge and appreciate all of the work and preparation on the part of Simon Temple, host church and the Eastern NC Episcopal District.

Thank you for supporting the Connectional Lay Council ministry.

In His Service,

Dr. Mary J. Matthews  
CLC International President

Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.  
Board of Lay Activities Chairman

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6*