Women’s Missionary Society Membership

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So, you want to be a member of this Society – Welcome!

**Who is eligible?**

* **Regular Member**
* All woman in the AME Church, except Itinerant Elders.
* Members must be in “good and regular standing” within the Local Society.
* “Good and Regular Standing” means regularly attending meetings, supporting mission initiatives and paying the established monthly dues.
* **Associate Member**
* Any male in good and regular standing in the Local church may become an Associate member upon payment of dues. Associate members are NOT eligible to vote or hold an office within the organization. The exception is the spouse of Bishops who are actively serving as District Supervisors.
* **Conference Branch Member**
* Any woman in good and regular standing in the AME Church, and an active member of the Local Society in the church where she is a member.
* All members must attend at least two (2) Annual Conventions during a Quadrennial. They are then added to the Conference Roll and eligible to vote.
* **Life Members**
* Life Membership is the highest honor awarded to a member of the Women’s Missionary Society.
* After twenty-five (25) years of continuous meritorious service in the Women’s Missionary Society, a member is eligible to apply for Life Membership. An applicant for Life Membership shall
* Be actively serving in the Local, Area (if applicable), Conference Branch, and Episcopal organizations at the time of submitting the application.
* Exemplify continuous meritorious service.
* Be recommended by the Local Women’s Missionary Society; and
* Remain active at these levels of service as long as life and health permit.
* **Continuous Meritorious Service**
* Meritorious service may be defined as continuous significant contributions through demonstrated leadership at the Local, Conference, Episcopal and/or Connectional levels.
* Continuous meritorious service may include, yet not be limited to:
* Demonstrated continuous service at the Local level;
* Distinguished services as an officer (elected or appointed) at one or more levels (Conference, Episcopal, Connectional);
* Recruited and encouraged new members;
* Developed or initiated programs to promote missionary education; and
* Directed or chaired significant missionary programs at one or more levels of the Women’s Missionary Society, etc.
* **General Information**
* There shall be one Life Member per Conference in an Episcopal District per Quadrennial. Only deceased Life Members are to be replaced during a Quadrennial. A copy of the Obituary or Home Going Service shall accompany the candidate’s application for Life Membership.
* Annually, all applications for Life Membership shall be kept on the Conference roll and reported in the order submitted via postmarked date of the local church recommendation. This list remains current as the new names are added to it.
* A Life Member who transfers from one Conference to another Conference or from one District to another District shall be entitled to all right and privileges afforded her during her previous affiliation, upon receipt of a “Letter of Transfer” from the sending Conference or District bearing the signatures of the Local President and Local Pastor, the Conference President, the Episcopal President, and the Episcopal Supervisor. The receiving Conference President or District President shall sign the “Letter of Transfer” and send it to the Episcopal Supervisor who will submit it to the Connectional President. A form letter should be provided by the Connectional WMS Office for this purpose.
* **The Process**
* The applicant must be recommended by certified letter from the Local society, after twenty-five (25) years of meritorious service in the Women’s Missionary Society. The recommendation should be sent to the Episcopal Supervisor and copied to the Episcopal President, the Episcopal 3rd Vice President and Conference President.

The following steps should be adhered to:

1. At the start of a new Quadrennial, the Conference President notifies the next Life Member applicant, as determined by the process outlined above, that she is eligible for the Quadrennial Life Membership. The Life Member application shall be secured from the Headquarters Office of the Women’s Missionary Society upon the request of the Conference President and the Episcopal Supervisor.
2. Once completed by the Life Member applicant, a fee of Two Hundred Fifty dollars ($250.00) for Districts 1-13 and One Hundred dollars ($100.00) for Districts 14-20 shall be attached to the application
3. The application shall be signed by the Local President, the Pastor, the Conference President, the Episcopal President, the Episcopal Supervisor, and the Bishop and the application is sent to the Connectional President with the fee attached.
* **Recognition**
* A Life Membership card;
* A Life Membership pin; and
* A Life Membership stole

*Now that you have successfully joined this organization, take off your white dress, roll up your sleeves and begin laboring in the vineyard!*

*Source: 2016-2020 Constitution & Bylaws - Women’s Missionary Society of the AME Church*