



Reviving the Connection: EXCEEDINGLY, ABUNDANTLY Above All We Can Ask or Think

EPHESIANS 3: 20-21



Dear FamiLAY!

As we have begun a new quadrennial year, it is fitting that we have a new theme which will inform and influence our programmatic scope.

Please find in this packet information on the theme, inclusive of the artistic rendering, a responsive reading or litany and a general overview.

Much as you did with our last theme, I pray you will grab hold of this new one, use it, share it and embrace it globally. God is a God of Overflow. We are in store for some amazing, mind-blowing blessings. You hold the gifts in your hands; God has the multiplying power. Trust God. Revive the Connection of our will and skills and watch Him do Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think.



“WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND GIVE THANKS TO A GOD WHO NOT ONLY MEETS OUR NEEDS BUT GENEROUSLY PROVIDES US WITH ABUNDANCE—FAR SURPASSING WHAT WE DARE TO REQUEST, HOPE FOR, OR IMAGINE. ■■■

The Connectional Lay Theme is in alignment with the AME Church Quadrennial theme.

Did You Know?

From the AME Church:

The Quadrennial theme may be a theological or biblical focus, missional emphasis, prophetic statement or program catalyst for ministry that is designed to serve as a rallying cry and/or a means to enhance the ministerial and/or programmatic thrust important to the life of the global church.

All Episcopal Districts, Presiding Elder Districts, Connectional and Annual Conferences, auxiliaries and local churches are asked to incorporate some aspect of the Quadrennial Theme in their programmatic or ministerial thrusts as an opportunity for teaching, training and developing a special emphasis that may emerge from the theme. It helps us to move together with a unified emphasis in our various capacities.

AMEC QUADRENNIAL THEME

REVIVE OUR SOULS AGAIN!

RECONNECTING THE AME CONNECTION

“Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?”

2025

Revive Us Again

Reviving our Connection to Jesus Christ

2026

Revive Us Again

Reviving Our Connection to African Methodism

2027

Revive Us Again

Reviving Our Connection to our Congregations and Communities

2028

Revive Us Again

Future facing – Reconnecting to face the future together

CLO LAY THEME

Reviving the Connection:

Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think

Ephesians 3: 20-21

CLO Theme

Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think

The KJV Scriptural Reference Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

God is able to take the CLO to NEW and HIGHER Heights. He can, will and has done more for us than we can even imagine or think. Beyond our wildest expectations is one description! WE limit Him by our own finite imaginations.

We are a Connectional Church. Our history – our founding story from a blacksmith shop in the middle of slavery, a pandemic, in-fighting, and transition speaks to the concept of Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All we can ask or think. The Lay Organization is an organization in which EVERY person in the church has roots or standing. This, simply put, means **everyone** started their journey as a lay person, including the pastor and yes, even the bishops. No other component can say that its composition is open to and may have included people in every part of the church.

What is the significance of making this connection? There are some clergy who once were very active laypersons. Becoming ordained does not mean one loses the knowledge or the CONNECTION of being a lay person. That Connection is what we need to REVIVE (refuel, retool and re-energize) in order to have a strong Lay Organization that serves the entirety of the church.

Exceedingly, abundantly simply means overflow or something immeasurable. God is a God of the overflow. Our text says He is able to very much surpass our requests and thoughts. While men think natural, God thinks and desires to do the supernatural. While we think ordinary, He thinks extraordinary. While we think and operate the mundane, He operates the spiritual and superior. Hannah petitioned God for a son, but God gave her six children (1 Samuel 1:11; 2:21). The crippled man at the gate of the temple wanted alms from Peter, but God decided to make him walk (Acts 3:1-10). The widow of the prophet wanted to just pay her debt so that her children would not go into captivity, but God decided to give her a business with lifelong earnings (2 Kings 4:1-7).

As we work to Revive the Connection we will reap benefits Abundantly, Exceedingly Above All We Can Ask or Think.

Exceedingly ABUNDANTLY

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"God is able to do exceedingly abundantly" means that God's ability to act is beyond human comprehension, surpassing anything we can ask or think. The phrase, from Ephesians 3:20, emphasizes that God's power can accomplish immeasurable and extraordinary things that are far greater and more magnificent than our limited human imagination. It signifies an "overflow" of God's power and willingness to provide blessings, miracles, and solutions that exceed our expectations and hopes.

Beyond human ability:

The phrase signifies that God can achieve things that are beyond the scope of human understanding and thought.

Immeasurable abundance:

It implies that God does not just meet needs, but does so in a way that is overwhelmingly plentiful and generous.

Greater than imagined:

It suggests that God's works will always be bigger, better, and more rewarding than any plan or dream a person could have.

Power at work:

The verse connects this immense ability to the "power that works in us," referring to God's power working through believers to accomplish the seemingly impossible.



Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think LITANY

from the pen of CLO DOLA P. H. WRIGHT 11/2025

LEADER: We are Reviving the Connection of Faith. We celebrate what is visible today, and we acknowledge that there are innovations, opportunities, and blessings awaiting us in the future with possibilities so vast that they are beyond our current imagination.

Reader: **Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.**

LEADER: We are Reviving the Connection of Gratitude. We are grateful to a God who blesses us not just with sufficiency, but with abundance—providing far more than we dare to ask, hope, or dream. This spirit of thankfulness fuels our optimism and unites us in grace.

Reader: **Exceedingly abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.**

LEADER: We are Reviving the Connection of Blessings. The advancement of science over the last century has eclipsed what our ancestors ever dared to dream. And much the same way, Lord, your blessings and the potential of them abound beyond our wildest expectations and imagination.

Reader: **Exceedingly abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.**

LEADER: We are Reviving the Connection of our Ancestors. Generation after generation we continue to witness the evidence of grace and favor, a testament to God's enduring power which transcend both time and space.

Reader: **Exceedingly abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.**

ALL: We are Reviving the Connection! Standing hand in hand, on one accord, searching God's Word, seeking God's will and serving God's people, surrounded by God's love whose plans for us are Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All That We Can Ask or Think.



ARTISTIC DESIGN

There is ONLY ONE Logo for the Lay Organization.

With the introduction of new themes, there are graphic designs or artistic renderings created to help visually express or support the theme. Such is the case with our newly approved theme. It does not take the place of the Lay Logo. **The use of the Lay Logo is always in order** with Lay programs. The use of the thematic rendering is also in order, especially when representing the theme. One may use either the official lay logo or the thematic artistic rendering. When using an artistic rendering, it is important to make sure to use the one that reflects the current theme. It is NOT Necessary to use the Lay logo AND artistic rendering together, especially if you are doing a cover (unless you are using it for a specific purpose, such as teaching). Both may be used throughout the program but not together, as they convey the same information.



REVIVING THE CONNECTION: EXCEEDINGLY, ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL WE CAN ASK OR THINK



The graphic design that supports the theme of Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think displays the anvil prominently, symbolizing the durability of a people who are steadfast in believing in a God who will deliver above and beyond. There is revival (redemption) in the cross. The cross represents our faith while the anvil represents the longevity and durability of a church that has weathered many storms yet still maintains its shape and purpose. The praying hands symbolize the posture of prayer or being humble and prayerful when asking for the blessings. REVIVING is large and visible as a sign of what is possible in the overflow of the Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All That We Can Ask or Think blessings. The golden rays denote emanating power.

Artistic Rendering created by

Mr. Lamar Rose

5th Episcopal District

24 HOURS EMERGENCY
RESCUE
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NOTE: A png file is attached to this email so that it may be used for programs and presentations.

