

**QUADRENNIAL THEME
2008-2012**

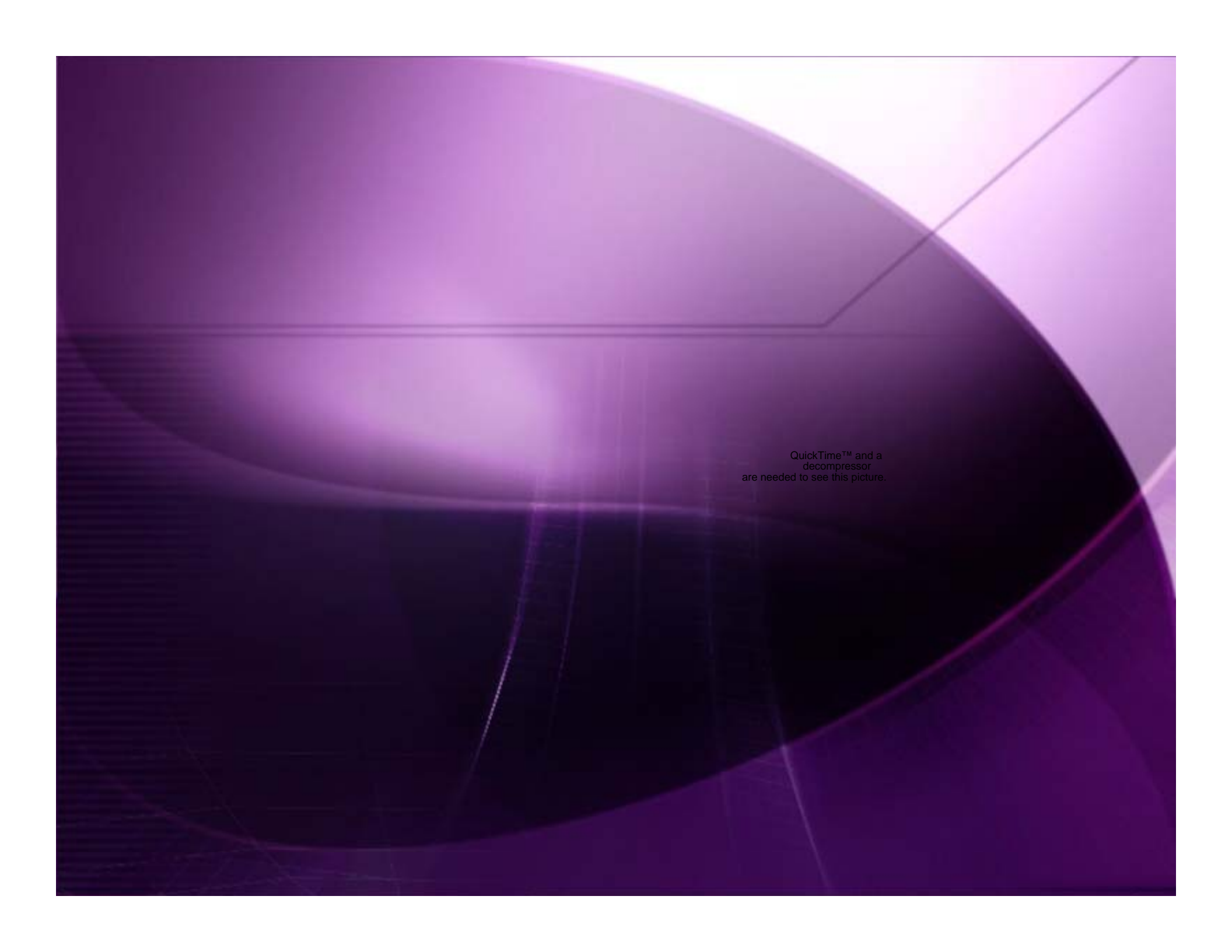
**A GREAT PAST
A GREATER FUTURE
AN INCREDIBLE CALL TO SERVE**





**A GREAT PAST
A GREATER FUTURE**

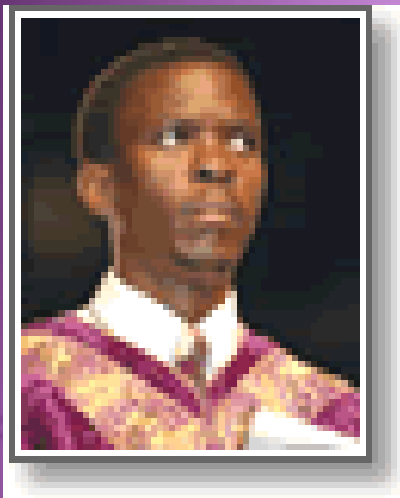
**BUILDING A BRIDGE FROM THE PAST
TO THE FUTURE TODAY!**



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We are living in perilous moments and times. All around us are wars, political, and social and economical instabilities. There are foreclosures and rumors of recession as gas prices keep soaring. The things happening around us have, or are likely to, engender fear within us.

**BISHOP PAUL KAWIMBE
PRESIDENT
COUNCIL OF BISHOPS**

QUADRENNIAL THEME 2008-2012

A GREAT PAST
A GREATER FUTURE

AN **I**NCREDIBLE CALL TO SERVE

A GREAT PAST A GREATER FUTURE

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater** things than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:12



BISHOP PHILIP ROBERT COUSIN, SR. (96) Presiding

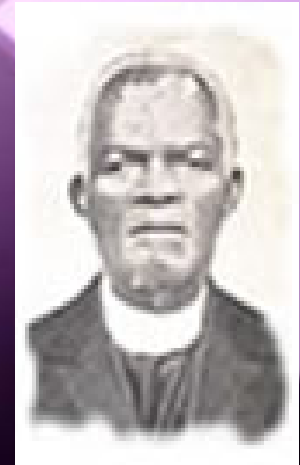
Prelate, 4th District

As we approach and enter a new Quadrennium, we must never forget our past. We have received from the Moses Generation much that will enable the Joshua Generation to become leaders of sensitivity and responsibility. The *Influence* we exert as a church and people must be seen in our ability to speak to the issues and concerns which confront us. We live in a world and in nations which must face the problems threatening to divide and destroy our wish to have a world where the Kingdom of God reigns. Our task is to be instruments of *Influence* to bring about the hope of a world and of nations free of strife, poverty, and disease and where peace is the order of the day.

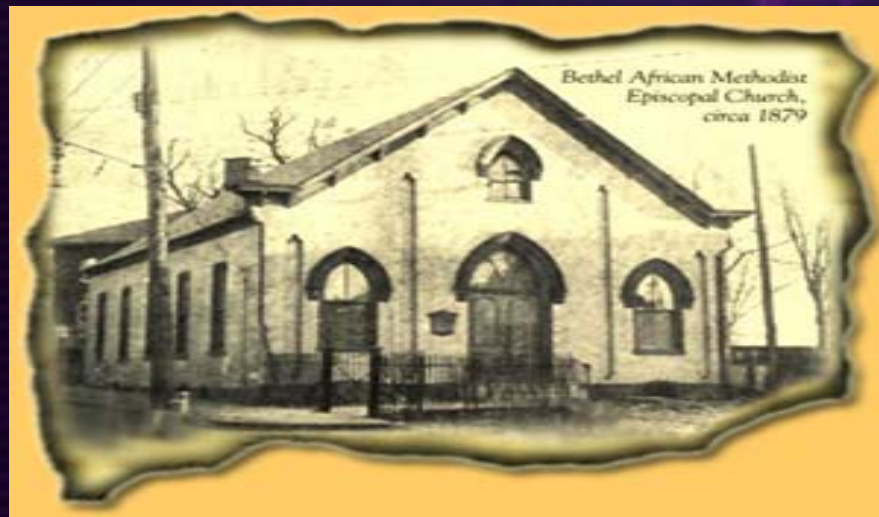
A GREAT PAST



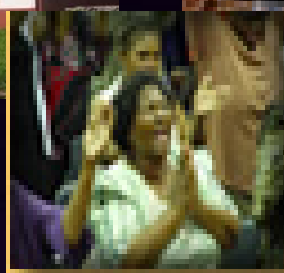
Bishop Richard and Sarah Allen



Father Gow Father Makone



A GREATER FUTURE



2008-2009

INFLUENCE

*"To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God."
Micah 6:8b NIV*

IN-FLU-ENCE (in' floo-ens)n.

**A power indirectly or intangibly affecting a person or event. 2a.
Power to sway or affect based on prestige, wealth, ability or status.
Webster's II New College Dictionary**

The theme for the first year of the quadrennial is INFLUENCE. This year give us the opportunity to explore issues surrounding our necessary involvement in the church and community in shaping and influencing public policy which is critical to the health and welfare to those who call African Methodism home and also to those who live in shadows of our citadels.

I INFLUENCE

**What impact should we have on public policy?
What impact have we had over the past 220 years?
What direction does the Bible give us? Is Liberty
and Justice for all still viable today? (Amos 5:24)
What would Jesus do in the 2008 election? How
does the local church respond to issues such as
violence, abuse, and additions, global warming,
depleting natural resources, economic recession
and housing crisis? What is our responsibility to
the environment? (Genesis1: 26) How do we live in
the world and not of it? What does it mean to live
in submission to your governments?**

(Romans 13: 1-6)

I NFLUENCE

2008-2009

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:

Amos 5: 24

Matthew 5: 13-1

Micah 6: 8

Proverbs 21: 3

Psalms 82: 3-4

Genesis 1: 26

Romans 13: 1-6

Matthew 25: 44-45

I Corinthians 1: 26 – 30

Isaiah 2: 2-5

Isaiah 9:6

Zephaniah 3: 5

I NFLUENCE

‘The question of whether or not Christians should be involved in politics is confusing to many Christians, who see politics as an inherently dirty business. We don’t want to be part of all that mud-slinging and trickery that marks most of the campaigns, and brings such pain to so many. This is not a new argument. Jesus was asked a question about participating in the politics of his day. His answer:”Render to Caesar (government) what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” This does not mean that the church in any form should take over government and impose its ideologies upon the people for its own purposes; it means that all citizens must participate in the processes that rule the daily lives of the people.”

BISHOP CAROLYN TYLER GUIDRY

2009 – 2010

INHERITANCE

*"A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children."
Proverbs 13: 22*

*"...Having believed, you were marked by God with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of God's glory."
Ephesians 1: 13-14*

IN-HER-i-TANCE (in-her-i-tens) n.

**1. The act of inheriting. 2. Something inherited or to be inherited. 3. Something regarded as heritage
Webster's II New College Dictionary**

**AME History; Discovering, rediscovering, teaching and re-teaching AME
Traditions/Faith practices**

Our great past will be explored. We have a great Wesleyan inheritance, a great African Methodist inheritance and a great spiritual inheritance. This gives the church the opportunity to rediscover our faith practices, Articles of Religion, dogma and doctrine their use and application in the 21st century. There is also a cadre of men and women who made great contributions to African Methodism upon whose foundation we continue to build.

2010 – 2011

INTEGRITY

“...if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness....”

1 Kings 9:4

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”

Titus 2: 7

IN-TEG-RI-TY (in-teg'ri-te) n.

1. Firm adherence to a code or standard of value: PROBITY.

Webster's II New College Dictionary

Christian character, Spiritual formation through trust, honesty, truth, integrity and Other valued behavior in the life of the believer.

Spiritual formation is an important aspect in the developing life of the disciple. How do we develop and maintain Christian character? How is behavior influenced in the church culture? How do you teach or do you teach honesty, truth, trust, abstinence, moderation, keeping your word or positive work ethic? We are to live in the world and not be of it.

What help, guidance and support can the church give to its member in this regard?

INNOVATION

2011-2012

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it spring up; do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43: 19

IN-NO-VA-TION (in 'e-va 'shan) n.

1. The act of innovating. 2. Something new or unusual.

Webster's II New College Dictionary

In this last year leading up to the 49th Session of the General Conference, the Annual theme is Innovation. Issues surrounding creative ministry, new models of ministry and utilizing technological advances in worship and witness.

Our Incredible Call to Serve leads us from a Great Past to an even Greater Future. Issues surrounding innovative responses the continue to plague churches and church members, new models of ministry, new approaches to Evangelism, Bible Study, Church Growth, rural church ministry, urban church ministry and developing new traditions to serve the present age.

God's word encourages us that by faith through grace, we shall do greater works!

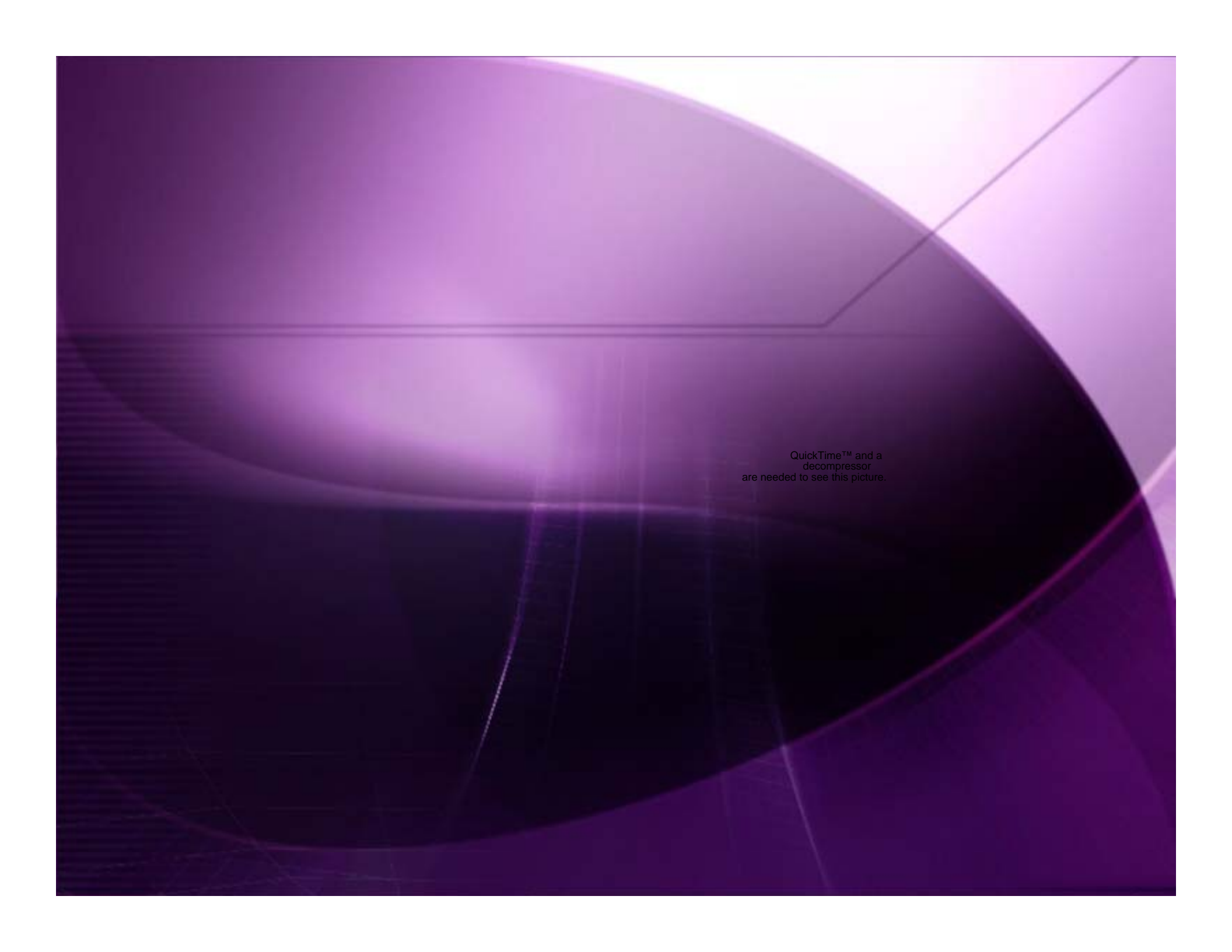


All departments and auxiliaries of the church are encouraged to use the theme in its literature, teaching and events. This Total Church Thematic Teaching approach ensures that the message will get through to all of members whether they are missionaries, members of the organized Lay, boy or girl scout, Sunday School teacher, YPD's, preacher, presiding elder, local church member or visitor to our churches.

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**INFLUENCE, INHERITANCE,
INTEGRITY AND INNOVATION**



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