

**The Eastern Deanery
Report to Convention 2010**

Diocesan convention delegates and clergy from the eleven congregations in the southeastern portion of the Diocese meet at least three times a year to share ideas, successes, challenges and upcoming events in their congregations and prepare for diocesan conventions. The deanery convocation is responsible for carrying out the following duties: a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperative ministries among the congregations in the Deanery; b) Identifying and communicating program and ministry ideas to the appropriate diocesan commission; c) Aiding diocesan commissions in the implementation of programs and ministries in the deanery; d) Raising funds as necessary to its activities; e) Disseminating and responding to diocesan communications relating to annual convocation concerns; f) Proposing names as required for membership on diocesan commissions.

2010 Officers: Chair, The Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas' Battle Creek; Vice-Chair: Barbara VanDyke, St. David's, Lansing; Treasurer: Eric Pintar, St. John's, Charlotte; Clerk: Debbie Egnatuk, Trinity, Marshall; plus parish delegates to diocesan convention elected at annual parish meetings in January, as well as youth delegates elected by the deanery convocation.

The Eastern Deanery noted progress in the rebuilding of St. James' Church building in Albion and their interim between rectors. In addition, further steps have been taken by Trinity, Marshall in their continuing search process for a rector. We welcomed two new clergy to the deanery: The Rev. Gretchen Weller at Emmanuel, Hastings and the Rev. Brian Coleman at St. Thomas, Battle Creek.

Also remarkable in the deanery were the introduction of the new confirmation customary and available resources, with anticipation of deanery congregations working together and candidates attending a retreat with the Bishop; the first in a series of anti-racism workshops introduced to promote the elimination of racism in our midst, and the new diocesan partnership among lower peninsula Michigan dioceses and the Dominican Republic, with Deacon Beth Drew serving that ministry.

Members of the deanery were also able to support continuing mission work in the Gulf Coast and financial relief for Haiti (and Chile) after their earthquakes.

Future projects include further development of a deanery-wide confirmation program, participation the diocesan vision and planning commission, and continuing support for our parishes without full-time clergy.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Steve Bartlett and the Rev. Brian Coleman