

## Grand Valley Deanery

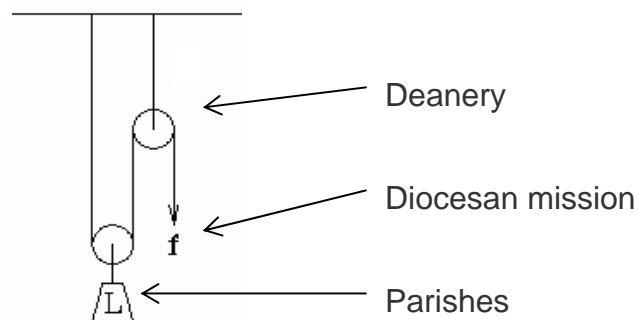
Annual Report to the Diocese  
2009-2010

The Grand Valley Deanery serves as a communication tool for the 14 parishes (Church of the Holy Spirit in Belmont; St. Andrew in Big Rapids; St. John in Fremont; Grace & Grace Sudanese in Grand Rapids; St. Andrew in Grand Rapids; St. Mark in Grand Rapids; St. Philip in Grand Rapids; St. Paul in Greenville; St. John in Ionia; Holy Cross in Kentwood; St. John in Mt. Pleasant; St. Mark in Newaygo; Holy Trinity in Wyoming) that make up the Grand Valley Deanery, and the Diocese.

The Rev. Laurel Dahill (St. Andrew, Big Rapids), Mr. Wes Hackett (St. John, Ionia), and Ms. Margaret Stretton (St. Mark's, Grand Rapids), have capably served as the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer this past year.

This year Grand Valley added an additional meeting in August for the purpose of meeting the new Chair, and setting the tone for the regularly scheduled meetings. Particular attention was given to establishing a clear identity and purpose for the Deanery. From there, issues of our place in the leadership of the diocese were explored.

An image of a pulley system was introduced to illustrate the direction Grand Valley would take in the coming years. A pulley system makes it easier for the force ( $f$ ) to move the load ( $L$ ). The Deanery is most effective when viewed as a pulley system for the Diocese, and serve as a communication point between the larger Diocesan bodies and the parishes.



Group development processes such as small group discussions with members of different parishes, and focus topics such as defining the realities of our local contexts, helped to give the Deanery a better sense of its identity.

From there we began to assess our ability to help lead the Diocese in the larger gospel mission. With a greater understanding of the realities of our local contexts, we can better communicate the real-time needs of our communities to the Diocese, so that larger decisions can be made based on current realities. A process of resolution writing for the 2010 Diocesan Convention was undertaken as a means of continued self-assessment, leadership-building, and deeper engagement with the Diocese.

In 2010, the Grand Valley Deanery will continue to serve the Diocese and our parishes as place where the local reality meets the larger vision; where leadership is fostered; and where the gospel mission can be embraced as the immanently do-able thing it is.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Laurel Dahill, Deanery Chair  
Mr. Wes Hackett, Deanery Vice-Chair  
Margaret Stretton, Secretary/Treasurer