

# Burlington Convocation Clergy

We have to free our people to not be intimidated by the collar.

Let a good lay persons stay as lay persons if that what their call is - honor the lay ministry. Not just give them liturgical functions but support outreach ministries like lay chaplains.

Nothing empowers lay like the confidence of the bishop and the rector.

In the 80s there was VIM and interdependence and mutual responsibility campaigns. Not trying to conform everyone into one thing but allow each to use their own gifts.

The message of the church is the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The church has to take care of itself in order to take care of others.

The church in Acts doesn't talk about the Holy Spirit because they only knew the Father and the Son. Once they got out there they found the Holy Spirit - it showed up when they did God's work together.

The persecution of Stephen made them realize their lives might be shortened, and Christians are still living with persecution today.

The bishop's involvement with the priests is good. When the people see the bishop it makes it less of a feeling of us and them. It gives clarity to who we are as Episcopalians. Too many are Congregationalists.

How are we perceived from the outside? As the bishop with a drinking problem/DUI, the financial problems, and that we don't have a clear identity.

We have bishops, we focus on the sacraments, but people in the congregation don't know because we are not teaching.

We've got the Book of Common Prayer and never should take that away from the laity.

We live comfortably with mystery, the culture is essential to people.

Robin Williams 10 Reasons Why list. We are the Via Media.

We honor women in ministry.

Catholic light, not Catholic lite.

Episcopal church is one expression of the faith. We offer the presence of Jesus Christ in word and sacrament and the role of reprehensible and forgiveness is key.

We can ask questions, go deeper, think about things. We are open to all expressions of humanity. How gathered clergy feel vs people in the pews.

An example of bringing a church back to life when it's ebbing. The parish and the priest's own spiritual lives weren't going anywhere. Repentance - some part of the responsibility belongs to the priests. Ask what is my part? Does my parish love Christ more at the end of the year? Do I?

Where do we as clergy lose our grip? Priests should ask where is my responsibility, where am I the cause, how do I recover my loss? If we aren't together, how can we be a diocese together?

Priests need to remember when you step in front of the altar, what do we really do?

We all need to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Are these the right vital questions?

We want our bishop to be our leader.

When you call Diocesan House you feel the Spirit. The tone there is open and wonderful.

Ministry of reconciliation.

Reflective of how NJ works. The school districts are the same. Why don't we pulp swap?

Tithe - the church is God's idea, He will do what he wants to do with it whether we join in or not.

Part of our income is owed to God. We should give in proportion up one percent at a time. Call

God into the picture. The church needs to grow spiritually and we are in a supernatural enterprise.

Our people listen to our clergy. Formation needs to happen. What story are we teaching people?