

Welcome to
**Caring for Clergy and Congregations in Difficult
Calls!**

*A webinar seeking to explore better ways
through conflict.*



Sponsored by a partnership between ECF and NECA.



Caring for Clergy
And Congregations



A guidepost from Eugene Petersen-

"Jonah didn't drown. He was swallowed by a great fish and so saved. The drowning of religious careerism is followed by resurrection into a pastoral vocation. We become what we are called to be. We become what we are called to be by praying.

And we start out by praying from the belly of the fish."

Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational
Holiness

A Prayer for Vocations



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A few thoughts to begin with:

Let's acknowledge this is a tough topic.

-It's tough because it deals with failure.

Dioceses don't seek it.

Parishes don't want it.

Clergy do not pursue a call to have it fail.

-Yet, it does happen. When it does, it is often kept silent. Painful /Expensive.



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Tonight, the panel does not have all the answers.

-Each on the panel wrote last fall as part of a larger essay campaign to give voice and explore the challenge of such calls in a non reactive way.

-Currently, there are no identified best practices for how to better address calls that fail that are **not** due to Criminal or Moral crimes.

We wonder, can we cast failure in new light? Not as an end to ministry but potentially as a means to transformation?



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Ultimately, we are exploring this tough topic to:

- Support better relationships to build the body of Christ
- Develop more equitable arrangements for clergy, parishes, and dioceses
- Build legitimacy and resources in order to build credibility to a topic often kept silent.
 - **To find ways to support both clergy and congregations to live further into their vocations.**



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In a minute:

- Each on the panel will introduce themselves and answer identical question. (8-10 min)
 - We'll return to each to go a little deeper to explore some themes they raised in their essays (20-25 min)
 - We hope to have the remainder open to questions that you might wish to explore (Miguel and Brendon will be "eyes in the sky" ... use chat box to ask questions.)



The board of the **Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations (NECA)** would like to thank all those who signed up, the panel, all of the writers and especially ECF for partnering with us to support this webinar.

To read the original 11 essays referenced and /or explore a beginning set of resources that seek to address challenging calls please go to :

www.episcopalclergy.org

Look under the **“Community Forum”** tab. To support our advocacy efforts please consider joining NECA.