

## Why is it Difficult to Acknowledge Clergy Power?

1. Many clergy (and other church workers) like to think of themselves as mutually-oriented, collaborative.
2. Life history (family of origin) issues suggest lack of power.
3. Feelings of overwork and impotence.
4. The responsibility of power is frightening, hence is minimized.
5. Personal life may lead to feelings of no power.
6. Denominational traditions may minimize power of ministerial role.
7. Awareness of own neediness and weakness lead to sense of no power.
8. Congregational dynamics make clergy feel weak, helpless.
9. Depression (mild or severe) causes feelings of "no power."
10. Ambivalence about power.
11. Ego confusion about the source of ministerial power.
12. Idealism about non-hierarchical ministerial role.

Rev. Chilton Knudsen  
Pastoral Care Officer  
Episcopal Diocese of Chicago  
090596