

# Comparison & Contrast: Trinity Torrington vs. Trinity Lime Rock

## 1. Parish Identities & Cultures

### Trinity Torrington

- Known as “**the church that does things**”—highly active, outward-focused and mission-driven.
  - Emphasizes **resilience**, innovation and lay-leadership in the absence of full-time clergy.
  - Community ethos: **loving, supportive, unified**, with deep internal bonds and strong outreach identity.
  - Notes tensions around varying perspectives and a desire for deeper theological grounding.

### Trinity Lime Rock

- Sees itself as a **faith based, caring, welcoming, and spiritually grounded community**.
  - Hospitality is central: meals, fellowship and social ministries are a defining feature.
  - Worship space and music are deeply valued; culture leans toward **beauty, tradition, and relational warmth**.
  - Describes itself as a **regional parish** with members from CT, NY, MA.

### Comparison

- **Both** value deep interpersonal care and a welcoming spirit.
  - Torrington identity is **activist/outreach-driven**, mission-heavy, often courageous and experimental.
  - Lime Rock identity is **relational/hospitable**, centered on beauty, community warmth and stable worship.
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## 2. Worship & Liturgy

### Trinity Torrington

- **Strong lay-led worship**: Morning Prayer, varied lay preaching, creative and flexible liturgical community.
  - Accustomed to fewer Eucharists as part of experience with part-time clergy.
  - Challenges: limited choir participation, no children’s programming.

### Trinity Lime Rock

- **Strong music program**, gifted music director, small but devoted choir.
  - Offers both a contemplative 8 AM & 10:30 AM Eucharist and a traditional music-rich service.
  - Worship is both **traditional and devoted**; they embrace hybrid/online worship and fellowship successfully. Successful start to morning prayer over the last 4 months.

### Comparison

- Torrington’s worship life is **traditional yet creative**, relying on robust lay leadership while seeking the guiding hand of ordained leadership.
  - Lime Rock’s worship life is **stable, traditional, musically rich**, clergy-supported, and both in-person and virtual.
  - Lime Rock has a more developed **music and liturgical culture**, while Torrington craves **stronger sacramental leadership**.
  - **Both** parishes do not take themselves too seriously while taking important things very seriously, indeed.
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### 3. Outreach & Mission

#### Trinity Torrington

- Strong, visible community presence:
  - Emergency Winter Shelter
  - Landlord to Torrington Community Kitchen (40+ years)
  - Host to multiple 12 Step Programs
  - Partners with multiple local organizations
  - Hosts cultural events (Juneteenth, concerts, film screenings, Kwanzaa Celebration)
  - Known widely for its **service identity**.

#### Trinity Lime Rock

- Outreach includes:
  - Vecinos Seguros
  - Food pantry support, feed a family of four for a day collection
  - Thanksgiving meals, partners with local social services for Christmas Tree angels
  - Refugee assistance
  - Grants for Torrington Shelter
  - AA hosting
  - Children's "Thank Offerings"
  - Community arts (art shows, concerts, host to New York Cycle Club in the spring, Spring brunch to bring in different non-profits in the region)
  - Pastoral Care Team, visiting shut-ins and nursing homes

#### Comparison

- **Both** are outreach-oriented, outward facing churches.
  - Torrington's outreach is **intense, structurally integrated** (shelter landlord; large civic presence).
  - Lime Rock's outreach is **consistent, relational, and tied to hospitality and generosity**, with children involved consciously.
  - Torrington's outreach can strain financial and facility capacity; Lime Rock's is more **steady and sustainable**, though dependent on a core group.
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## 4. Size, Demographics & Sustainability

### Trinity Torrington

- Small closely knit congregation with an aging demographic
- Declining attendance and volunteer burnout risk.
- Financial sustainability and building maintenance are concerns.
- Desires growth, ideally through families and children but from all age demographics.

### Trinity Lime Rock

- Also small—but describes itself as “companionship along the way”.
- Regional draw brings some demographic diversity.
- Dreams of growth especially for much needed volunteers
- Financial goal: raise pledges to sustaining level.

### Comparison

- Both parishes face **aging populations**, limited volunteer pools and financial pressures.
  - Torrington expresses **more acute anxiety** about sustainability, largely due to the size and scope of their physical plant.
  - Lime Rock seems **more balanced**, with a regional draw and strong continuity.
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## 5. Leadership & Clergy Expectations

### Trinity Torrington

Hopes for a PIC who:

- Strengthens biblical/theological grounding.
- Provides sacramental leadership.
- Develops and supports lay leaders.
- Helps navigate varied theological/political viewpoints.
- Is willing to be a visible community leader in the city / area.

### Trinity Lime Rock

Hopes for leadership that:

- Sustains worship and religious studies
- Supports growth, especially among younger people/families.
- Builds on strong hospitality and existing ministries.
- Helps maintain their beautiful sacred space.

### Comparison

- **Torrington** needs a **pastor-teacher-organizer**, able to provide community leadership, theological depth and vision for our shared future.
  - **Lime Rock** needs parish leadership, able to nurture community, steward worship/music, and support growth.
  - Torrington’s expectations lean toward **clarity, organization and growth**.
  - Lime Rock’s expectations lean toward **continuity and growth, especially with younger families**
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## 6. Relationship to the Wider Church

### Trinity Torrington

- Active ECCT participants, but engagement is concentrated in a few.
- Frustrations with diocesan barriers (travel, accessibility, training).
- Desire for stronger ECCT ties and for help connecting parishioners more widely.

### Trinity Lime Rock

- Values ecumenical worship and cooperation.
- Embraces digital ministry as connection beyond boundaries.
- Less focus on ECCT barriers; more on collaboration with neighbors.

### Comparison

- Torrington engages the wider church structurally but struggles with accessibility and parish-wide buy-in.
  - Lime Rock engages relationally and ecumenically, with less internal tension about diocesan processes.
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## Overall Summary

### Trinity Torrington

A **high-energy, mission-driven, lay-led, resilient** parish.

It is outward-facing, creative and courageous but can feel stretched thin.

Desires theological grounding, leadership, and strategies for sustainability and growth.

### Trinity Lime Rock

A **warm, inviting, musically rich, and relationally cohesive** parish.

It blends tradition with adaptability and values beauty, fellowship, and compassion.

Needs sustainable stewardship, expanded participation, and growth among younger generations.

Both parishes are populated by members who are deeply and unwaveringly supportive of one another. Both parish populations are also profoundly committed to the missions of not only their respective churches but that of the Episcopal Church in the wider world.