

Mixed Metaphors – Navigating Conflict through Effective Lay/Clergy Partnerships

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Every local faith community, of whatever size and shape, is facing significant transition and change which often leads to conflict among members and, more typically, between the clergy and the parish. Political polarization and the fallout from the November election will only exacerbate this tension. While conflict is not inherently bad, it needs to be managed and focused. Clergy often feel overwhelmed and isolated in these circumstances and have the misconception that they alone are responsible for bringing the congregation together. But it's not just about you. You need to acknowledge and appreciate that we're all in this together and consider church leaders and members as partners and not just parishioners. Using the Baptismal Covenant and Ordination Vows as a theological framework, Donald Romanik will offer some ideas and facilitate a lively and provocative discussion on how clergy can forge, nurture, and sustain effective lay clergy partnerships to navigate transitions and change, manage conflict, and redirect the congregation from internal personal clashes to outwardly focused mission.



Donald V. Romanik has been President of the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) since 2005.

Since taking the helm at ECF, Donald has led the organization in the ongoing and iterative process of developing programs and initiatives that address the changing needs of Episcopal faith communities, including short-term pilots, comprehensive online resources, and a robust endowment management program.

Donald is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, CT and earned his J.D. from Boston University School of Law. Donald worked as an attorney in both government and private practice and has been active in a variety of civic, charitable and religious organizations, including serving as former member and President of the Hartford, Connecticut Board of Education.

Donald is married to Margaret Felton Romanik. They have two grown children, one of whom serves as a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas, and four grandchildren.