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## Finding a new locus for authority

by Tom Roberts

### 5th in the series

There are no markers, of course, pointing neatly to some future. But on the road, in the midst of the anxiety over parish closings and what will become of the church in the future as the numbers of priests keep falling, I hear hints of what Phyllis Tickle describes as the future -- a Christianity that is "relational, non-hierarchical" and "democratized" as an analog for the political and social principles of authority and organization that will increasingly govern global life during the centuries of the Great Emergence."

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