

2026 Summit Agenda and Panel Descriptions

Summit Schedule

8:00–9:00 am – **Breakfast & Registration**

9:00–9:30 am – **Opening Remarks**

Speakers:

Rev. Mark E. Fowler, CEO, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding
James A. Felton III, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion, Fordham University

9:30–9:50 am – **Keynote**

Speaker:

Nadine Augusta, Chief Impact Officer, Cushman & Wakefield

9:50–10:00 am – **Mapmaking: Guided Reflection**

10:00–10:50 am – **Building the Foundation: A Blueprint for Religious Inclusion**

Moderator: James A. Felton III, VP for Equity & Inclusion, Fordham University

Speakers:

Miranda Bennett-King, Senior Director of Culture, The Hartford
Kimberly Tiedeken, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Princeton University
Liz Joslin Varghese, Senior Manager of Global Inclusion, Weil

Description:

This session brings the day's "roadmap" to life by introducing essential organizational practices for advancing religious inclusion across the workplace, workforce, and marketplace. Panelists will share how their organizations partner with Tanenbaum to build and sustain infrastructure that mitigates bias, addresses conflict, and builds respect across religious differences. Participants will hear examples of how religious inclusion can be embedded into policies, practices, employee engagement, and organizational culture.

10:50–11:00 am – **Mapmaking: Guided Reflection**

11:00–11:15 am – **Break**

11:15–12:30 pm – **Sharing Your Location: The Traveler's Profile**

Facilitators:

Rev. Mark E. Fowler, CEO, Tanenbaum
Thomas Smith, Workplace Program Associate, Tanenbaum

Description:

This session grounds the morning's insights by inviting participants to reflect on how religious, spiritual, secular, and other sincerely held identities shape workplace experience and engagement across difference. Participants will be introduced to Tanenbaum tools and approaches for advancing religious inclusion supporting respectful conversations about religion and belief at work. Drawing on interactive elements such as "The Traveler's Profile," this session will invite participants to reflect on where they are now and where they want to go on their journey toward religious inclusion at work.

12:30–1:30 pm – **Lunch**

1:30–2:20 pm – **Surveying the Landscape: Accommodating Religious Difference in Legal Practice**

Moderator: John Mensah, Program Director, Community Services Foundation

Speakers:

Nathan Calko, Private Funds Associate, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Martin L. Schmelkin, Partner, McDermott Will & Schulte

Dr. Mohamed F. Sweify, Counsel, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP

Description:

This panel will explore how religious difference is experienced and negotiated within contemporary workplaces. Bringing together scholars and practitioners, the conversation will incorporate three dimensions: institutional realities within law firms and legal organizations; legal frameworks governing religious accommodation; and the lived experience of professionals navigating identity, belonging, and integrity at work.

Rather than focusing solely on policy, the discussion will invite a deeper question: what does it mean to implement religious accommodations effectively and respectfully, and what kind of professional and interpersonal culture does that require in the legal field and beyond?

2:20–2:30 pm – **Mapmaking: Guided Reflection**

2:30–2:45 pm – **Break**

2:45–4:30 pm – **Navigating the Terrain: Transforming Conflict & Building Trust at Work**

Speakers:

Chelsea Feltman, Workplace Program Associate, Tanenbaum

Daniel del Nido, Assistant Director, Education Program, Tanenbaum

Description:

A great roadmap is not enough without the confidence and skills to navigate it. Likewise, a culture of respect for religious difference instills confidence that employees can safely bring their whole selves to work—a key component for the success of religious accommodation policies and inclusion strategies.

In this session, participants will be introduced to and practice skills to transform conflict into trust within an increasingly diverse workforce, with a focus on respectful communication and relationship-building across differences. Drawing on tools from Tanenbaum's Education program, this interactive session invites participants to translate the day's insights into practical strategies for the workplace, workforce, and marketplace.

4:30-4:45 pm – **Mapmaking: Final Reflection**

4:45-5:00 pm – **Closing remarks**

Speaker: Rev. Mark E. Fowler, CEO, Tanenbaum

5:00-6:00 pm – **Reception**