CONTENTS

Figures, Tables, and Working Notes ix Foreword by Loren B. Mead xiii Acknowledgments xv

IIntroduction: Invitation to a Journey 1Who Needs to Change? 2What Does Change Look Like? 6How Does Change Happen? 8The Journey Ahead 11Getting Organized 14Companions for the Journey 16Doing the Work 17

2 Getting the Lay of the Land 21

The Place Map: Define Your Boundaries23The People Map: Naming and Knowing Your Neighbors29Conversations with Community People35The Institutional Map: Recognizing Historical Resources45Summary Exercise: Windshield Survey51Summary56

3 Sizing Up Your Tabernacle 59

Basic Timeline: An Orientation Exercise63Timeline of Buildings and Facilities70Timeline of Leadership and Decision Making76Timeline of Resources: People, Money, and Spiritual Presence85Timeline of Worship and Music91Summary Celebration: Creating a Comprehensive Timeline99Summarizing Your Work104

4 Looking for Pillars of Fire 109

Encountering the Wilderness 111 Wilderness Exercise 1: Testing Your Choices 112 Wilderness Exercise 2: Discerning Directions 121 Wilderness Exercise 3: Naming the Pillar of Fire 126 Imagining Life Across the Jordan 129 Imagination Exercise 1: When Strangers Become Neighbors 129 Imagination Exercise 2: When Neighbors Become Partners 131 Imagination Exercise 3: Testing the Waters 137 Coda for the Congregation: A Time for Celebration 140

5 Across the Jordan: Settling in the Promised Land 145 Launching a New Ministry: Crossing the Jordan 146 New Habits of Ministry 157 Sharing Kitchen Tables 158 Sharing Tables, Chairs, and Schedules 161 Sharing Boardroom Tables 165 Sharing Sacred Tables 169 Conclusion 172

The Authors 177 Index 179

FIGURES, TABLES, AND WORKING NOTES

FIGURES

- 2.1 Mapmaking Requires Choices 25
- 2.2 People Who Live in Our Neighborhood 31
- 2.3 Conversations in the Community: Whom Should We Interview? 37
- 2.4 Interview Summary 42
- 2.5 Interview Themes 43
- 2.6 Windshield Survey: Community Treasure Hunt 54
- 3.1 Basic Timeline 67
- 3.2 Building Facilities Timeline 74
- 3.3 Decision-Making Diagram 80
- 3.4 Resources: Average Attendance at Church Worship and Sunday School and Annual Budget 87
- 3.5 Diagram of Spiritual Presence 89
- 3.6 Worship Timeline 98
- 3.7 Reflections on a Timeline: Themes That Have Sustained Us 103

TABLE

2.1 A Demographic Profile of Our Neighborhood, from 2000 Census Data 34

Contents