

Drawing on their more than thirty years of pastoral and church consulting experience, Gary and Kim Shockley illustrate the power of imagination using personal stories born of their own quest to be faithful in ministry. It is their experience that it is only when we form a mental image of what we believe the church is and ought to be that we can help others imagine church. As they remind leaders, "If you can't see it, neither will anyone else." Rather than suggesting one model or process for church effectiveness, *Imagining Church* helps us to think more imaginatively about how God is at work in our present ministry contexts and how to open ourselves anew to the Divine Artist, who is ready to fuel our desire to be the co-creators we are meant to be for the sake of the church.

IMAGINING CHURCH

Seeing Hope in a World of Change

"As we live in a 'time between the times' for the church and its future, how blessed we are to have a book like this, written by people who have drawn their conclusions from actual ministry experience. As a result, their vision is real and compelling—enabling us to live in the tension between the need to preserve certain things while reaching out for the new things God has in store for the body of Christ."

STEVE HARPER, PROFESSOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION,
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"By the time you finish reading *Imagining Church*, you will love Kim and Gary! With a blend of self-deprecating humor, biblical and theological foundations, and a rich storytelling style, the Shockleys have created a resource that will help pastors and congregations imagine a church that is truly the hope of the world. They have included a wealth of illustrations, providing the reader with a plethora of ideas for things to do and values to guide the mission."

MARGARET ANN CRAIN, PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION,
GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Gary A. Shockley is a pastor serving in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is the author of *The Meandering Way: Leading by Following the Spirit*, published by the Alban Institute in 2007.

Kim Shockley is currently serving as a Healthy Church Specialist with the East Central District of the Florida Conference for the United Methodist Church. She helps to

identify areas of local church life that can be improved as well as coach churches and pastors through the processes of Natural Church Development and ReFocusing.



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