

## Checklist 1: Focus on Congregations

Take a few minutes to review this list of challenges and hold it up against the life of the group of which you are a leader. Make a check in the space provided to the left if in your opinion the challenge is one you are facing at this moment.

- 1. Many of our members seem unclear about what we are all about, what we stand for, what our mission is.
- 2. Our educational programs are not designed for adults who want to engage in serious learning about being disciples.
- 3. Some of our members think the congregation needs a vision for the future.
- 4. In the past few years, we have been losing more members than we are gaining, and we are unclear about how to attract new members.
- 5. Demographic changes have occurred in our neighborhood.
- 6. We have an aging congregation, and many of our biggest donors are in their sixties and seventies.
- 7. In our congregation we don't seem to be "connected" to one another as we used to be.
- 8. We do not feel very connected to our regional and national offices.
- 9. Money is a big worry, and we regularly defer maintenance on our building and grounds, as well as short-change administrative support.
- 10. To tell the truth, we don't relate much to other congregations of our own denomination—much less to others.
- 11. We have a hard time recruiting, motivating, and training new leaders for our key committees.
- 12. We do not talk about controversial issues, even important ones.
- 13. Our outreach and mission work is not as strong as it used to be.
- 14. Our worship life needs to be enriched. We keep hearing "same old, same old" about worship.
- 15. We need to attract younger people and families.
- 16. We are not keeping abreast of new technologies that might enhance our worship services, administration, and outreach.
- 17. We have difficulty accepting change.

If you have checked even one of these 17 items, you have identified a challenge that the rest of this book will help you explore and address.

Next, go down the left margin (right next to your check marks), and indicate with an asterisk all the issues you consider seriously troubling. If you like, put two, three, or even four asterisks to indicate the intensity of your concern.