

# Contents

---

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	11
<b>Introduction to the Book</b> .....	13
The Structure of This Book .....	14
The Structure of the Text .....	17
The Design of the Book .....	20
The Book Situated at the Margins of Practical Theology .....	21

## **Part I** **A Situated Pastoral Theology**

<b>Portraits and Handbooks</b> .....	27
<b>Karl Rahner and the Deformed Steel Beam at Herder</b> .....	33
Futurology .....	34
Planning .....	35
Building .....	37
A Point of Culmination .....	39
Steel and Brick .....	41
Bent and Broken .....	43
<b>Bonnie Miller-McLemore and Vanderbilt's Tumbleweed</b> .....	45
A Point of Culmination .....	48
Tumbleweed .....	49
Constructive Fragments .....	52

<b>Current Projects on Embodied, Localised Thing-Theology</b> .....	55
Attention to Details .....	58
This Habilitation as One Particular Lens .....	61

## **Part II** **The Electric Laboratory**

<b>An Introduction to a Theology of Material and Space</b> .....	65
A Spatial Turn with Material Implications in Systematic Theology .....	66
A Spatial Turn with Material Implications in Practical Theology .....	69
<b>Universal Service: The Cathedral of Bell</b> .....	71
Laboratory Architecture as a Company's Vision to Shoot a Man to the Moon Every Day ..	72
The Architect as the Almighty Designer .....	77
Martin Heidegger: Designing and Building as Part of the <i>Conditio Humana</i> .....	80
<b>Failure and the Power of Wonder</b> .....	83
The Unspeakable in the Philosophy and Poetry of Jean Wahl .....	85
An Artistic Intervention: Richard Learoyd's Crashed, Burned, and Rolled .....	88
<b>The Utopian Potential of the Material</b> .....	89
Material History: The Case of the World Fair of 1867 .....	92
A New View on Science: Laboratory Life .....	95
Software as Part of a Dynamic Materiality .....	97
<b>A Networked Model of the World</b> .....	99
<b>A Christian Perspective</b> .....	103
An Exegetical Exhortation for an Engagement with the Material World .....	104
Giorgio Agamben's <i>Homo Sacer</i> Project as a Subversive Praxis .....	106
<b>The End of a Totalitarian Vision</b> .....	113
The Corporate Campus Lives on Today .....	114

## Part III

### Social Laboratories

<b>From Central Planning to a New Sensibility</b> .....	119
Addressing the Needs of a City: An Artistic Primer .....	119
Addressing the Needs of a City: A Planner's Perspective .....	123
Addressing Spiritual Needs: An Architect's Perspective .....	125
A Sense for the Greater Good through Building: An Architectural Perspective.....	128
A Sense for the Greater Good through Building: A Parliamentary Perspective .....	132
 <b>New Strategies for Materially Sensitive People</b> .....	135
The Architect: Material and Social Self-Formation .....	135
The Designer: Subversively Changing the World through its Products .....	140
The Community Organiser: Listening to People's Voices as Co-Creators .....	142
 <b>Examples of a Material-Human-Sensitive Church</b> .....	147
Getting Hands-on in the North West Bronx: How a Church Fights for Spatial Justice from within the World of Things .....	147
Social Forming in Rif: A Church Rich in Material and Social Awareness .....	152
NWBCCC and Rif As New Ways for Pastoral Planning .....	156

## Part IV

### A Situated Church Community

<b>Concrete Communities</b> .....	161
A Definitional Conundrum: Parish or Community? .....	161
Concrete Typologies.....	166
Beginnings.....	166
 <b>Church Communities Today: Three Alternative Visions</b> .....	171
Endings .....	171
Continuations .....	173
New Beginnings .....	177

<b>Church Communities in the Future: Church Without a Home .....</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Practical Theological Implications Beyond the Concrete .....</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>197</b>
An Artistic Intervention: Thing Photography .....	197
Churches as Open Artworks and Museums for the Future .....	200
<b>Literature .....</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Unpublished Literature and Websites .....</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Interviews and Other Material .....</b>	<b>219</b>