Preface to the 1982 edition

This book seeks to make a statement at the interface between two disciplines: my own discipline of Old Testament study and the discipline of education. Such a book is possible only when two risks are taken, and I have taken both. First, it is necessary to be somewhat synthetic and sweeping about one’s own discipline. I have tried to do that in judicious ways and intend not to be reductionist. Second, one must presuppose some things about the second discipline at the interface. I have made these presuppositions, which I hope are responsible, even if not fully informed.

The chapters of this book were first prepared for the Caldwell Lectures given at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in March 1981. Regarding that lectureship, I especially thank President Ellis Nelson and my host Craig Dykstra for their kind hospitality. Along the way, portions of this material were also given as the J. Clyde Wheeler lectures on ministry at Phillips University School of Religion and at Ewert College in Toronto. In those places as well, I was kindly hosted and graciously received, even if not uniformly agreed with.

This book has been long in the brooding stages. Initially the topic formed for me in response to an invitation from Larry Kalp of the United Church of Christ. Near the end of the process my
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