

Life Story Timeline Map

Check through for materials that will be needed.

Allow an hour and a half for this exercise - Best with a group of around 10 - 15 key leaders who have been part of the church for a number of years.

- Put butcher's paper along a wall - with enough room for people to tape cards at key points on the sheet.
- Using a marker pen to make marks on the bottom of the chart, divide the sheet into equal sections depending on the number of decades in the life of the church. I.e if the church is 45 years old, divide the page into 5 sections. Indicate these so participants have a guide.
- Put small piles of coloured cards (See below) out and let the participants write brief notes on keys events, stories, people, situations in the life story of the church. These can be put up as desired. Many will have the same event. It is important to let people put up multiple cards around key events.

- **Pale Yellow:** Significant people in church life, significant events which shaped the life of the church, (not necessarily painful, we'll come to those in a moment)
- **Pink:** Painful events in the life of the church, conflict, division, people leaving, death of key leaders.....
- **Green:** Times of significant growth
- **Orange:** Critical decisions or changes that were made

- Take some time to reorganise the sheet the way that participants can agree best represents the whole story.

- Ask people to select 2 stories, a positive story and a painful story to share with the group. Note the choices down.
- Look for any key patterns.
- Ask for a reflection from participants when they have concluded.