

### III

## **“We Will Build Our Churches in the Promised Land;” African-American Migrants and Their Churches in Cleveland**

**Kimberley Phillips**

This presentation highlights some of the ways African-American Southern migrants created community during the first decades of the twentieth century. African-American churches served as both institutional and social spaces, linking Southern black culture to the imperatives of Northern life. The numerous churches migrants created, like their social clubs and community organizations, reflected their desire to fulfill the promises of Northern life. In such organizations, working-class black men and women sought to define their own meaning of community. Equally important, black migrants' energetic self-organization attested to their desire to re-weave the fabric of community to accommodate the needs of home, work, and neighborhood.