



Climate Justice the Methodist Way *Continued from Page 1*

Carbon Footprints

Reductions in carbon footprints can only be measured where there is a baseline to report on. At a parish level this could be done in a simple (level 1) to more complex (level 3) reporting system:

1) Internal reporting

Establish, follow and communicate guidelines that meet agreed values and objectives.

2) Selected audience

Demonstrate best practice, communicate an aggregate and share details one-on-one. Make conscious supply choices.

3) External audience

Demonstrate best practice. Follow international guidelines. Communicate transparency and be prepared to answer questions.

Of the 100 companies and organisations in the NZ Climate Leaders Coalition, no churches are represented. MCNZ could be creating a new model of operating ministry and business.

Richard Milne, a member of the Ecumenical Climate Justice Network, discussed his efforts within the Anglican Church. "Twelve years ago in a climate change workshop with the Anglicans, one woman came to hear about weather forecasting." A lot has changed since then and the Anglican Church now has a partially funded sustainability coordinator.

Key areas identified for parish CO2 emissions reductions included:

- Travel
- Food and catering supplies
- Energy consumption (heating,

lighting, water, cooking)

- Paper and printing
- Waste management

Barbara Nebel recommended parishes establish climate change initiatives linked to those SDGs identified as priorities and then find acceptable options in making positive change. Ideas for practical change included hosting virtual meetings, encouraging use of locally produced food and reducing meat consumption, reducing waste and the introduction of recycling schemes, shared transport and/or better use of public transport, choosing ethical suppliers and investment options, and the introduction of work-from-home days for staff.

Some commented on the unrealistic expense of upgrading church facilities with solar heating and the use of sustainable building materials versus less expensive alternatives. Nebel suggested grants are available to help with the installation of carbon efficient heating for churches and halls, resulting in reduced energy costs. There was general agreement that cost drives many choices in the not-for-profit-sector.

Climate Justice versus Social Justice

Much of the combined discussion centred on the dichotomies of dealing with the issues of climate change for an



Attendees at the Climate Justice workshop held in Auckland in March.

organisation that works with the disadvantaged. Wealth distribution and climate change are two sides of the same coin.

Tara Tautari summed up the issue when she said, "Talking about less use of paper, electricity and food makes me deeply uncomfortable. Today in Aotearoa there are people in Kaikohe who moved closer to the river so they could wash and get water. We need to bring it back to community. Those that can change, change." Rev Abhishek Solomon reiterated, "How do we include the marginalized communities in this discourse? They are out there facing the change on a daily basis. This is just one aspect we need to address."

Lusia Taloafulu, member of 350.Org 'Pasifika Climate Warriors', an activist organisation for climate change, shared an anecdote that painted a different picture. "It is already too late for low-lying atolls in the Pacific. In Kiribati I was waiting for a boat when a king tide swamped the shed, up to my waist. Local children were playing in that deep, dirty

water. The impact of climate change is shocking. The science, politics and policies are out there but the heart of the issue is the people and cultures that will no longer have a place to call home. What are we doing about it?"

In closing, Betsan Martin said, "If the church is going to be prophetic, we need to consider faith, ethics, the Treaty framework and the economic issues involved in climate change. From a practical perspective it's time to get started. Implement strategies that are within the reach of church communities. One way is to start with a baseline of parish footprints."

Given the enormous social, climate and environmental change that has happened since that workshop, and the significantly reduced climate emissions in a world in partial lockdown, it seems an ideal time for church to embrace a new model of operating that successfully combines the needs of the vulnerable with the capabilities of those in a position to effect positive change.

Church roof caves in

Rev Ian Boddy

You may have heard unbelievers say that if they walked into a church the roof would cave in. At Wesley Broadway, Palmerston North, when the congregation stopped going to church, the roof caved in.

St Paul's was built on Broadway in 1912; a fine looking brick building, with a spire-topped tower. St Paul's and Trinity Methodist churches amalgamated on the one site as 'Wesley Broadway' in 1992 and built a new worship centre attached to the old St Paul's building.

The old church was creatively utilised, but not used for regular worship



Demolition was underway when an unexpected chunk of masonry fell into the church foyer.

services for 28 years. Some years ago, before the Christchurch quakes, St Paul's was closed as it was deemed an earthquake risk. Following years of

discussion, a demolition contract was awarded in February 2020. Wesley Broadway worship services moved to Terracehaven Funeral Chapel on 16

February, and the Parish Office closed on 13 March. Barriers were erected and 'Closed - Keep Out' notices posted.

The demolition company initially worked on St Paul's interior walls from mid-March. On Thursday 21 March the iconic spire was lifted off and two days later work started on the top inner side of the tower. Unexpectedly, part of the tower (nearest the current worship centre) fell through the foyer roof. A few tons of bricks and rubble landed exactly where Wesley Broadway people typically had morning tea after a worship service.

The foyer area has had a leaky ceiling for years and we often had a bucket to catch the drips. One cubic metre of tower masonry landed right where that bucket would have been.