Journeying Together: Advocacy

St. Matthew in the City

Season of Creation

September 20, 2020

Richard Milne and Richard Le Heron

Graphics by Kiri Le Heron

What is advocacy?

- 'Public support for a particular cause or policy'

- Gives opportunity to have our views considered by decision makers

- Helps to prevent abuse of power and keep democracy alive

- Is a learned skill which requires practice!

National Climate Change Risk Assessment for New Zealand

Arotakenga Tūraru mō te Huringa Āhuarangi o Āotearoa

Main report
Pūrongo Whakatōpū

Why the church?

- Anglican 'Marks of Mission'

- 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Methods of advocacy

- Social media & petitions (Avaaz, 350.org, Greenpeace, Amnesty Int. etc)
- Face to face presentations to authorities
- Opinion pieces, letters to the editor
- Newsletters
- Celebrity endorsements
- Media partnerships with newspapers, journalists & film-makers
- Web-based bulletins and online discussions
- Public events
- Large-scale advertising campaigns
- Write letters to authorities, individually or collectively

Recent examples of advocacy

2019 - Visit of *St. Matthews* to Ihumatoa

2019 - Presentation to Auckland Council on divestment from fossil fuels [*Richard M*]

2020 - Letter to Prime Minister: an ethical response to recovery from Covid 19 [*Ecumenical Climate Justice Network*]

2020 - Motion to Synod: legally mandated declarations of climate risk by financial institutions [*Richard M & Vicki Mee*]

Learning collective advocacy

Breakout groups:

What would you like to say to the authorities?

Submit ideas by 'chat' function or email Cate

Learning advocacy (1)

Native tree removal on Canal Rd (Avondale) for housing development

- Employment of construction industry
- More housing for Auckland
- Profits for developer

BUT

- Trees absorb carbon, provide oxygen, stabilise land, provide shelter, host birds, etc
- Native trees are our heritage
- Native trees are slow growing and not readily replaced

Other ideas?

Target audience?

Learning advocacy (2)

Export of live animals (6000 cattle lost at sea)

- Overseas funds for NZ
- Diversification of exports

BUT

- Trauma to animals
- Danger to crew members

Other ideas?

Target audience?