

**From the Minutes of the 2008 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Held at St Patrick's College, Silverstream, Upper Hutt, 2 – 5 October 2008.**

### **Ecological Task Group**

The Rev John Howell presented the report of the Ecological Task Group. Mr Howell was granted leave to replace section 3 of the Task Group's report with the following:

#### **[08.079] "3. Declaration on Climate Change and the Environment**

Climate change, with its life-threatening consequences, raises theological, economic, political and ethical issues. It reflects the distortion of relationships between God, human kind, and creation.

The Bible teaches the wholeness of creation: Life is created sustained and made whole by the power of Christ and God's Holy Spirit (Genesis 1, Romans 8, John 1). God creates human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2). Sin breaks relationships among human kind and with the created Order (Genesis 3 and 4, Jeremiah 14, Hosea 4:1-3). Bearing the marks of human sin, 'creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God' (Romans 8:19). God provided all creatures with the conditions to live life as it is meant to be, in a specific relation towards one another. Part of the Christian call to discipleship is for the Shalom and restoration of creation through Jesus Christ. In accordance with this commitment:

- We commit ourselves in Christ to care for God's creation.
- We recognise that we have lost a right relationship with creation through sinful actions and economic systems that encourage unsustainable use of resources.
- We commit ourselves to help reduce the threat of climate change through actions in our own lives speaking prophetically to Governments and industries and standing in solidarity with those most affected by climate change."

Mr Howell moved *en bloc*, it was seconded and carried:

[08.032] That the General Assembly encourage parishes to audit their environmental footprints.

[08.033] That the Presbyterian Church endorses the Declaration on Climate Change and the Environment.

[08.034] That congregations and presbyteries study the issues of climate change and the environment, and take practical action.

[08.035] That the Ecological Task Group be thanked and discharged.