



STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT AOTEAROA

Happy Winter!

Tenā koutou katoa Senior Friends, supporters and current SCM-ers

Mānawatia a Matariki! It's been a busy few months this winter for SCM with our AGM and annual hui and a national tour across the Motu.

In March, Jessie and Michael travelled up to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, where we partnered with the Maclaurin Chaplaincy to co-host a lecture "God is Queer" by Steff Fenton. The lecture caused quite a stir, and we had a great turnout.

We made our way from Auckland to Ōtautahi Christchurch for the biennial Awaken Rainbow Christian conference. There were engaging workshops, powerful keynotes, and lovely opportunities for whanaungatanga with other progressive Christians from around Aotearoa. Our next and last stop was Ōtepoti Dunedin, where we met with the Otago branch over lunch.

Our AGM and National Hui was held in Dunedin last month, and more on that on page 3. We're leaning into a stage of regrouping and thinking through how we might best be a witness to the radical way of Jesus here in Aotearoa.

Michael Toy

SCMA Public Theologian

Jessie Malcolm-Stone

SCMA National Administrator



A Note From the Public Theologian

I can't believe it's almost been a year since my appointment to the role of Public Theologian! It's been an absolute pleasure being able to engage with SCMerS all over the Motu -- and internationally over the last year.

I have few doxa, but one of them is: never do theology alone. This approach towards collaboration and thinking together is difficult because it means working slowly, engaging with differences in opinion, and leaning into a vulnerable uncertainty. And yet, despite the added administrative and epistemological challenges, working this way is so rewarding. This year, SCM has embodied this collective, partnered, and collaborative approach o host events, write submissions on government policies, and engage with sticky contemporary topics.

There is beauty in encountering differing viewpoints and a variety of opinions. Each of us comes with our own multiplicity, and reaching out beyond ourselves highlights the beautiful diversity within each one of us.

I've also found that it can be easy to slip into an over-romanticising of the beauty of diversity. Representation of different viewpoints is not necessarily a good in itself, but encountering difference allows us to see the ways our systems and our theologies uphold structures that work for some and not others.

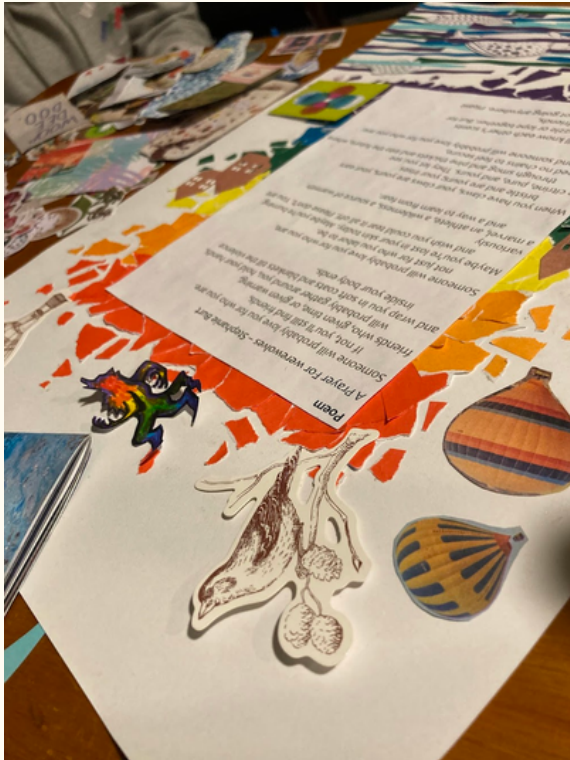
I'm struck by a quote from Sophie Lewis, a scholar in feminist, queer, and transgender studies. "The history of feminism is so capacious as to contain within itself its own enemies. And there really are enemy feminisms, which is not to say there are any totally 'unproblematic', you know, angelic feminisms or something, but I do think that some level of confusion can be averted by identifying the ones that are actually in-and-of-themselves anti-liberatory."

The quote must be wrestled with on its own terms, but I also find it so perfectly applicable to Christianity. Diversity teaches us about the way things are built. And it forces us to ask: is the building fit for purpose? Of course, critical disability theology asks this question literally. Our church buildings are notoriously inaccessible. But disability theology -- along with other voices -- asks it metaphorically as well. Is our theology liberatory? And liberatory for whom?

Michael Toy
Public Theologian



National Hui and AGM 2023



The SCMA Hui and AGM for 2023 was held in Dunedin from 16-18 June. We gathered at CYC Waiholā, a peaceful and re-energising time to connect, worship together, celebrate the past year, and brainstorm about the future of SCM here in Aotearoa. We were joined by the SCM Trust Board on Saturday for prayer and lunch. There was ample time for games, collaging, Veggie Tales, and great chats.

On Sunday, we had the pleasure of joining others at Arai Te Uru Marae for a World Refugee Day celebration co-hosted by The Red Cross, Southern Youth Development and Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council.

The members of the NCG for 2023 include:

Chair: Rev. Dr. Jordan Redding
Equity Officer: Hannah Pretious
Trust Representative: Rachel Tombs
Treasurer: John Graveston

Branch representatives:
University of Otago: Chris Hawkins
Victoria University: Josh Reid



What's Coming Up?



SCM OTAGO

SCM Otago continues to bear witness to a vision of progressive and inclusive Christianity down in Dunedin. Co-president Linea has moved to Colorado for the semester for a study-abroad while co-president Ollie Alexander holds down the fort



SCM Victoria

At SCM Victoria, we've hosted a number of lectures, panel discussions, and are slowly growing momentum with regular attendance at our events.



OTHER EVENTS

We are planning a series of lectures and social gatherings online in the next few months! For more details as they emerge, watch this space and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SCMAotearoa/>