

ABSTRACT

This research develops a model for the churches emerging public response, in the Irish context and beyond, to climate justice in the current era.

This is an era, referred to by the atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzem, as the Anthropocene. In which humans are exerting a geological impact on the Earth and its self-regulating systems, the summation of which is climate change. Population, poverty and inequality in the consumption of Earth's resources are investigated, alongside our societal responses in sustainability and development.

Two alternate theories of justice, as fairness (John Rawls) and as communicative process (Juergen Habermas), are considered in framing the theological response in the public domain to climate change. Juergen Moltmann's, Maureen Junker-Kenny's and John Macquarrie's theological work points to a public role for the Churches and therefore the need to develop the *missio Dei* in modeling a just response to mitigate and ameliorate climate change. Richard Osmer's practical theological approach has been adopted in developing this model.

The evolving model also drew on the work of Walter Brueggemann on Old Testament prophecy and developed specifically with an exegesis of eighth century prophet Micah. When viewed through a missiological lens in conjunction with Gary Tyra's concept of the co-missional church, the model is converted into an instrument for eco-mission. It is intended as a practical tool to assist the churches in communicating and engaging effectively in the public square in relation to climate justice.

The proposed model was tested and evaluated qualitatively in a series of semi-structured interviews with nine Church of Ireland members. Their inputs were collated into tabular form and corroborated by the participants. The outcomes are presented with an evaluation and commentary.

Finally, the proposed model and its evaluation assisted in the development of a series of recommendations for the Church of Ireland for its eco-mission on the issue of climate justice.