

# And rain fell on the earth

Research on the vision of churches in  
Amsterdam on the urban field of  
climate action and sustainability

# Outline of my presentation

Short summary of my research topic

Background information on Green Churches and Rainproof

Results of interviews

Ecofeminism in the Netherlands

Conclusions

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# Research question

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- How do Green Churches in Amsterdam position their vision on sustainability and climate action within the broader field of sustainability and climate action?



# *GroeneKerken* (GreenChurches)

- Organization initiated by Tearfund and Church in Action
- Six topics with toolkits
  - Conscious purchasing
  - Creation and nature
  - Energy and climate
  - Handling money
  - Policy and approach
  - Faith and inspiration
- 325 churches, 7 of them in Amsterdam

# Rainproof Amsterdam

Network of the water management company Amsterdam

Adapting Amsterdam to climate change, especially severe cloud bursts

Network of different organizations, companies and individuals

“Every drop counts”

# My research

- How it started: Water symposium and Rainproof
- Intense literature study on Christianity and ecology
- Interviews with members of two Green Churches in Amsterdam



# Literature study

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- Faith and inspiration toolkit
  - Dave Bookless
  - Martine Vonk
  - Trees van Montfoort
  - Dutch Council of Churches
- Academic literature
  - Jürgen Moltmann
  - Celia Deane-Drummond
  - Sallie McFague

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# Interviews

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- Some demographic information
- Influence of Covid-19
- Interview topics





# Interview results



Action



Contemplation



Balance



Cooperation?

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# Ecofeminism

- Mostly women who take the lead
- Awareness of influence climate change worldwide
- Intersectionality of climate action

# Conclusions

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History of  
Christian focus  
on ecology

Difficulty to make  
a Christian  
involvement  
explicit

What does  
Christianity have  
to offer?

Future research  
on networks  
within Christian  
circles

Cooperation  
between  
Christian  
churches