

# **'Faith and Life'**

***Friday, May 25***

**Sherrema Bower, Quaker, University Chaplain and Activist.**

***7.30pm in the hall at All Saints Gladstone***

When the crisis over lead-contaminated water erupted in 2015 in the city of Flint, Michigan, Sherrema Bower was living in New Zealand, but felt called to return to her home town and work as an activist on behalf of those, mostly poor, who felt helpless in the situation. This will be her story of life and faith.

Sherrema is a chaplain, lecturer and activist and calls both Flint, Michigan, and Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand home. Sherrema was a community organiser, grant writer, teacher and journalist as part of the activism she offered during the ongoing lead-contaminated water crisis in the city of Flint.

Sherrema's scholarly research includes exploring the spiritual power of conservative Protestant women and their perspectives concerning their spiritual giftings, ministerial callings, and submission doctrine. Her focus is about women's experiences in patriarchal structures. She holds a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology of religion from the University of Otago (2016), a master's degree from Purdue University (2009), and two baccalaureate degrees from the University of Michigan-Flint (2007).

Sherrema has served for a total of nearly two years on the University of Otago's tertiary chaplaincy team and is returning to the USA to begin the Masters of Divinity at Earlham School of Religion (ESR) in August, 2018 as she fulfils her goal of becoming a board-certified chaplain.

Guests most welcome!