

# £57,406 CHURCH CONTRACT

At a contract price of £57,406, the trustees of Whiteley Methodist Church, New Plymouth, have accepted the tender of C. S. Loney Ltd., Christchurch, for the construction of a new church to replace the Whiteley Memorial Church destroyed by fire two years ago. It is expected the contract will be signed this week, work will begin almost immediately and the church will be ready in about 15 months.

The unanimous decision of the trustees was announced to a full congregation in the Whiteley Youth Centre, now used as a temporary church, by the minister in charge, the Rev. W. H. Greenslade, last night.

He said the church design would be that earlier displayed in models. The building committee had reviewed every possible alternative and was convinced the structure proposed best met the requirements of the status, circumstances, site and ministry of a central church in a progressive city.

The building committee and the trustees had decided to dispense with the covered way planned for the Lizardet Street entrance unless someone made a quick gift, Mr. Greenslade said. Parts valued at £900 had been salvaged from the old organ. The new organ, the gift of a family of church members, would be more versatile and have greater tone colour. Instead of two manuals, it would be blown by electricity and have electric action.

Mr. Greenslade said it was very fortunate that part of the old organ had been saved and that it was insured. The difference in cost was being met by the generosity of one family.

## MANY GIFTS

This gift was typical of many made by members of the church, who had raised a considerable amount since the fire by voluntary giving. The building committee recommended that the thin spire, which was to dominate the building, should be eliminated, but two members of the church had offered to pay for a spire.

Instead of being of stainless steel, the spire would be of aluminium to match the roof and prevent corrosion. The original plan to have a copper roof had been abandoned in favour of a snap-ribbon aluminium one, similar to that used on the new Sacred Heart College at Fitzroy but at a much greater pitch.

Conforming to the original planning, the building would be erected on angles of one in three rather than on the conventional pattern of right angles. This would produce a distinctive feature in the highly-pitched roof.

The main feature internally would be steel portal frames, which would support the side aisles without the need for a dividing column. The design would be new in the construction of Methodist churches in New Zealand.

Mr. Greenslade said the contract did not include the cost of interior furnishings. The pews, designed to seat 420 with the choir, the communion rail, pulpit, lectern and prayer stools would be built by Mr. R. Horrill, New Plymouth, who designed the model. With other members of the church, Mr. Horrill would use timber salvaged from the fire for much of the furnishings.

With the gifts promised and the generosity shown by people, it was not possible to assess the final cost of the completed and furnished church, said Mr. Greenslade. The minister and trustees had faith that