

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Strategic Plan 2012

A Faithful Witness

“...that they may all be one”
(John 17:23)

Reflecting Jesus’ prayer for unity, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) continues to be a leading force facilitating common purpose within the Christian community and building relationships between the church and broader society for the good of all God’s people in Oregon and beyond.

We live in a time of daunting needs, where the future is at risk for too many people. Critical issues: wars and violence, poverty, homelessness, racial-cultural divisions, health care, political polarization, immigration, and even the quality of our environment urgently call people of faith to prayer and action.

None of the issues we face today can be addressed by one sector of society alone. Only by joining hands with the broader inter-religious community as well as secular not-for-profits, business and government can we effectively accomplish the works of compassion, peacemaking and justice to become a healing presence in our state and our world. EMO firmly believes that through our witness and work together, we fulfill the ancient words of the psalmist that affirms the transformative power of unity in community—“How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

EMO will soon celebrate its 40th year of service to the church and the people of Oregon. With this plan, we renew our commitment and strengthen our resolve to be a catalytic leader focusing the church and broader society to build a better Oregon.

To that end, we commit to:

- extend our outreach and communications to Oregon’s faithful;
- engage in ever more effective service to the needy and marginalized;
- enhance and energize our leadership structure;
- expand our membership in order to reflect more fully the diversity of this state.

Vision

Striving for unity in Jesus Christ and seeking to honor our sacred traditions, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon envisions communities of faith in ministry together creating a more peaceful, just, sustainable and compassionate world.

Mission

Committed to mutual respect and understanding, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon brings together diverse communities of faith to learn, serve and advocate for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Emerging Strategic Commitments

Development of Communications Resources

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon seeks to enhance its statewide mission by taking full advantage of new and emerging communication tools and technologies. Thoughtful, deliberate and ongoing investment in these techniques and technologies can not only extend our message to the far corners of the state, they will be critical to engaging the next generation of ecumenical leaders.

Through an upgraded communications infrastructure EMO can more effectively launch its 40th anniversary celebration as a key “legacy” opportunity involving people around the state.

In addition, we can learn from and emulate other not-for-profits who have found that new social-media technologies can enhance fundraising opportunities through involving new supporters and cultivating greater response from of current supporters. Such opportunities can help undergird the financial stability of our work in the future.

Community Ministries

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will engage in compassionate service both through our existing Community Ministry programs throughout the Portland metropolitan area and by supporting and strengthening the church and community ministries of members and partners throughout the state.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will develop new theological and interpretative materials that invite both congregational reflection and individual involvement to missions of service to God’s people in their communities.

We seek to enrich our established programs by developing a larger role for EMO’s Board of Directors, greater strategic collaboration and coordination among service programs, and the creation of a statewide “Church and Community Ministry Network” for mutual support, sharing of resources and program development.

Board Development and Organizational Best Practices

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon commits its resources to enhance our Board of Directors and expand our leadership. We will develop and offer new training opportunities in collaboration with consulting organizations committed to the nonprofit sector. This will enable the Board itself to pursue increased training and leadership development opportunities, ensuring strong board participation and leadership recruitment with particular focus on diversity, multicultural representation and ecumenical formation.

Diversity and Inclusion

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon seeks to enhance diversity and inclusion (theological, racial/ethnic, cultural, geographic and youth) in its governance, ministries and mission, and to witness to the power of diversity as a positive force in both church and society.

We will expand and enhance the diversity of EMO Board, staff and volunteers, and develop new opportunities and avenues for EMO to engage with diverse communities throughout the state of Oregon.