

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO awards the Rev. Mark Knutson “Ecumenist of the Year”

The Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church, will be named “Ecumenist of the Year” on Oct. 13, 2009, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.

Knutson is dedicated to collaborative, ecumenical and interfaith work for the greater good. He serves on the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and Albina Ministerial Alliance, and was a past president of EMO. He is also committed to building a truly diverse and multicultural, multinational community and congregation at Augustana Lutheran Church—a 103-year-old congregation in northeast Portland with over 700 members. Augustana is a welcoming and affirming church without borders. It has been a Sanctuary congregation since 1996 and is the home of a non-profit collaborative. Each January since the Iraq war began, Augustana has hosted an annual Interfaith Peace Service.

Before coming to Augustana, Knutson served as the church-wide director of Youth Ministries for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its central offices in Chicago. In that capacity, he served on the National Council of Churches Youth Ministries committee. He was associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Gresham, and he directed activities of the Youth Ministries Staff for the Pacific Northwest Synod.

Also this fall, Knutson will be presented with the “Distinguished Parish Pastor Award” by the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, at their Annual Founders Day Celebration.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and table sponsorships are available for \$600. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren
Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches