

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Darrell Grant, Marilyn Keller and P'nai Or Choir join Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in honoring Pastor, Rabbi, Habitat, Jubilee

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, and 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.

Jubilee Oregon will be honored with the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award” at the event. Named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife Jean, the award recognizes outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all.

The late Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield will be posthumously honored with the “Two Pauls Award.” The award is presented in recognition of outstanding promotion of interfaith dialogue, service and relations.

Madras First United Methodist Church will be honored with an “Ecumenical Service Award.” The award is presented in recognition of Madras First United Methodist Church’s hope-inspiring, Christ-centered ecumenical community ministry in Central Oregon. McMinnville Habitat for Humanity will also receive an Ecumenical Service Award.

Musical offerings at the event will include performances by Darrell Grant, who produced the Voices of Reconciliation Concert for EMO’s Collins Lecture by Archbishop Desmond Tutu this spring; singer Marilyn Keller; and in honor of Rabbi Hirschfield, the P’nai Or Choir.

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.

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

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.