

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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Director of Pew Forum on Religion to address religious leaders on church hospitality

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life Executive Director Luis Lugo will be keynote speaker at a best practices forum for church leaders, presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). The forum “Fostering Hospitality in the 21st Century Church” will take place on Tuesday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. The forum will provide an opportunity for mutual learning and expanding networks of colleagues, as church leaders share how their congregations are creatively meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

In Lugo’s keynote lecture, “Religious Landscape: Shifting Beliefs, Practices and Affiliations in the Christian Church,” he will outline the recent research his organization conducted on the changing face of religion in America, with a specific focus on the Pacific Northwest. In a time when many churches are struggling to keep their doors open and people in our communities are suffering from the effects of the recession, this event is designed to build up our faith communities by providing a venue for churches of every size, denomination and region to share how they are responding to the changing religious landscape in our state and the growing needs of our communities.

“Fostering Hospitality” will also include a Bible study on the theology of hospitality with the Rev. Paul Schroeder; a panel discussion on practicing hospitably with the Rev. Charles Lienert, Deborah Loyd and the Rev. Vicky Stifter; and four breakout sessions on the topics of Changing Demography, Technology, Community Mission and Creative Worship.

Lugo has been the executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life since 2004. A non-partisan think tank, the Pew Forum conducts surveys, demographic analyses and other social science research on important aspects of religion and public life in the United States and around the world. The Pew Forum seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church » American Baptist Churches of Oregon » 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)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) » Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland » United Church of Christ » United Methodist Church » Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

affairs by delivering timely, impartial information to national opinion leaders, including government officials and journalists. Their research focuses on religion in four key areas: politics, law, domestic policy and world affairs. A native of Cuba, Lugo has edited works including “Religion, Public Life and the American Polity” and “Sovereignty at the Crossroads? Morality and International Politics in the Post-Cold War Era.”

Congregations are encouraged to bring teams of leaders to “Fostering Hospitality.” Coffee and lunch are included in the registration fee of \$20. More details about the forum, including registration, are available on EMO’s Web site at www.emoregon.org. For further information, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@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.