

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon installs new leadership First Latina elected president of EMO Board**

On May 12, 2011, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) presented the organization's new board leadership at its annual "Community Awards and Celebration Dinner." The Rev. Aleida Jernigan, co-executive presbyter of the northwest and northeast regions of the Presbytery of the Cascades, has assumed the role as president of the EMO Board of Directors. Jernigan is the first Latino president of EMO. She replaces immediate past president, the Rev. Lynne Smouse-López, pastor of Ainsworth United Church of Christ.

Born in Cuba, Jernigan moved to New York City in the 1960s and later relocated with her family to San Francisco, where she graduated from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1997 with a Master of Divinity. Her alma mater named her the "2010 Distinguished Alumna." Jernigan has served the church as a pastor and member of several advocacy committees, and currently serves on the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly Mission Council. She describes her present position as co-executive presbyter as "a pastor to the pastors."

Jernigan's special interests include women's rights, Hispanic ministries and the ecumenical movement. "EMO's values and mission—such as feeding the hungry and being a voice to voiceless—parallel those that I work on within my own denomination," says Jernigan of her involvement with EMO.

Also installed were the following officers of the EMO Board of Directors: president-elect, the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., pastor of Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in northeast Portland; treasurer, the Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt, regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon; and secretary, the Rev. David Nagler, pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church in Bend.

*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 ■ 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