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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Earth Care Summit gathers and inspires congregations going green

On Jan. 31, the second annual Earth Care Summit gathers congregations of all faiths to provide inspiration, training, and information on greening congregations and networking. “Food and Faith: Honoring Earth’s Bounty” is the theme of the 2011 Summit, which will be held from 6 to 8:45 p.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, in Portland.

The event—sponsored by the Oregon Interfaith Power & Light and Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, programs of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon— includes a locally-grown dinner, inspirational speakers and roundtables on a variety of greening topics. Speakers include Elizabeth Schwartz will speak about Tuv Ha’Aretz, a Jewish community-supported agriculture program, and members from the green team at Neveh Shalom will share about their LEED certified building and other greening efforts.

Roundtable discussions, led by community experts, will include various greening topics like that of Vermont Hills United Methodist Church, which turned its parking lot into a community garden. Other roundtables will focus on the steps needed to implement a solar project, tips on how to motivate a congregation and leadership, a discussion on the spiritual foundations of food and faith, solar congregations, environmental health, and sustainable building and groundskeeping.

Pre-summit events include: 2:30 p.m. advocacy training with environmental experts on key environmental issues in the 2011 Oregon Legislature; 5:15 p.m. tour of Congregation Neveh Shalom’s green building; and information tables from local green businesses and environmental groups at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$40/person and \$20/student and congregations that co-sponsor. The cost for the advocacy training is \$15/person and \$10/student. Scholarships are available. Registration forms are available online at www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php or you may call (503) 221-1054. Registrations will also be accepted at the door.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns connects, inspires, informs and empowers people, congregations and religious institutions to work for justice and the care and renewal of the earth. EMO 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