

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Alert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diverse Oregon religious organizations sponsor *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2011* Will call on legislators to fund safety-net programs slated for cuts in governor's proposed budget

In the midst of high unemployment and increasing poverty in Oregon, members of diverse religious communities will converge on Salem on Monday, March 14, for *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2011*. This event will bring together people from many faiths for interfaith worship, dialogue and education, and to advocate for programs that combat homelessness, reduce hunger, and provide expanded access to affordable health care and long-term care.

What: *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2011: Speaking Out for Our Neighbors in Need.*

When: Monday, March 14, 2011. Registration begins at 8 a.m., program begins at 9 a.m.

Where: Morning program at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE, Salem, Ore.

Keynote Address: Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority.

Who: Individuals and groups from congregations, community organizations, and the public are encouraged to attend and participate.

Cost: The registration fee is \$18 per person (\$9 for students) and includes lunch and materials.

Press Access: Throughout event.

After a welcome, opening prayer and music, an interfaith panel will discuss "The Roots of Religious Concern with Poverty," followed by an advocacy training and issue workshops on Affordable Housing and Homelessness, Hunger Prevention, and Health Care Access.

At 12:30 p.m., participants will march from St. Mark Lutheran Church to the Capitol. After a short rally at 12:45 p.m. on the Capitol steps, they will be welcomed by Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany) and Rep. Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County). The afternoon is devoted to advocacy meetings with legislators about funding for critical safety net programs.

Major sponsors: Archdiocese of Portland (Roman Catholic); Church Women United in Oregon; Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon; Episcopal Diocese of Oregon; FISH Emergency Services; Hunger Team, Presbytery of the Cascades; Interfaith Committee on Homelessness; Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County; Islamic Society of Greater Portland; Jewish Federation of Greater Portland; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry; Metro District Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference United Methodist Church; Muslim Educational Trust; Oregon Food Bank; Oregon Area Jewish Committee; and the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger. In addition many individual congregations are also co-sponsors.

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.