

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO to honor First Christian Church of Silverton with “Ecumenical Service Award”

First Christian Church of Silverton will be presented with the “Ecumenical Service Award” at *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* on May 14, 2014. The award is presented in recognition of special achievements in hope-inspiring, life-enhancing, ecumenical community ministry.

A major catalyst for ecumenical work in the Silverton area, the First Christian Church founded a weekly community dinner to help families who lost their jobs during the recession. The dinner has grown to serve 400 to 500 people a week. By June of this year, it is projected to have served 100,000 dinners. Area churches including St. Paul Catholic Parish and the Friends Church participate as partners in First Christian’s program, which has also been used as a model by a number of other Oregon congregations including the South Salem Friends Church and First Christian of Medford. Other outreach by the congregation includes Mission to Mexico, Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministries, Disciples Mission Fund, FEDICE Ecuador Mission, Week of Compassion, El Faro Orphanage, Apple Tree School Supplies, and Northwest Christian University.

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual celebration has become the premier ecumenical event in Oregon, bringing together diverse communities of faith and community partners in celebration of ecumenism and the spirit of hope across Oregon. This year’s event also marks the 40th anniversary of EMO and will include a celebration of the growth of the ecumenical movement in Oregon since EMO’s founding in 1974, following the merger of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* on May 14 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 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$75 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$750. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, 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.