

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Rev. Lynne Smouse López as “Ecumenist of the Year”

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López, pastor of Ainsworth United Church of Christ (UCC) in Portland and moderator of the UCC Central Pacific Conference Board of Directors, will be named “Ecumenist of the Year” on May 14, 2014, at the *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner*. The award is presented in recognition of leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.

Rev. Smouse López is being honored for her outstanding service in racial and gender equality work, the peace movement, and ecumenical and interfaith ministries, including leadership in the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland, EMO Board of Directors, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Jobs with Justice, Sweatfree Portland, People of Faith for Peace, Jubilee Oregon, and Oregon Action’s Citizen Committee against Police Racial Profiling. In addition to her current position as moderator, she has served on and chaired a variety of UCC conference, regional and national groups.

Rev. Smouse López has served as pastor of Ainsworth UCC in northeast Portland since 1996. Previously, she served as pastor of Immanuel UCC—a bilingual, African-American/Latino congregation in south central Los Angeles for eight years, where she was involved in gang intervention and prevention work, parenting, community organizing, transitional housing development, justice advocacy and Hispanic ministries.

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.