

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO statement on the Charleston shooting

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon grieves yesterday's tragic shooting at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in Charleston, S.C., which resulted in the death of nine people gathered for Bible study and prayer. We offer prayers for the families and friends of all of those who died so senselessly. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Bethel AME, a denominational member of EMO, and their pastor and EMO board member, the Rev. Terry McCray Hill.

We condemn this act of violence against our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we deplore the racial hatred that was its apparent motivation. May we learn from this tragedy, as we engage more urgently in working towards ending the gun violence and racism that is tearing apart our communities. We recall the words in Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon calls upon all people and houses of worship to pray for healing for the victims' families, congregation, and community.

Bethel AME Church, located at 5828 NE Eighth Ave. in Portland, will host a prayer service for the victims of the shooting tonight at 6 p.m. All are welcome and invited to attend this evening of prayer. For more information, contact Dr. T Allen Bethel, Maranatha Church, at (503) 288-7241.

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.

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