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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 29, 2015

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2016 *Earth Care Summit* explores renewing Creation from the ground up

The largest interfaith environmental gathering in Oregon, the annual *Earth Care Summit*, will take place at the University of Portland on Jan. 30 and 31, 2016. People of faith, local agencies and businesses are invited to find both inspiration and practical tools to respond to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* and the Paris Climate Talks by joining us for an opening evening of *Climate Arts*, featuring writer **Kim Stafford** and folksinger/cellist Anna Fritz, a keynote by the **Rev. Dr. Randy S. Woodley (Keetowah Cherokee)**, back-to-back breakout sessions and dinner. **Mayor Charlie Hales** has been invited to give closing remarks.

Saturday's Climate Arts will be in Buckley Auditorium from 8 to 10 p.m., followed by a reception with the performers and other artists.

Sunday's keynote by Woodley, "The Land Speaks, but Do We Listen?" will explore how humans can return to their role as co-sustainers of Creation in the context of climate crisis.

Woodley will also offer workshops on "Side by Side: Ethnocide and Ecocide," connecting the interrelations of human and environmental justice. We recently interviewed Woodley regarding his role and hopes for the Summit as they relate to the urgency of climate change, and this correspondence is available on Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's website at www.emoregon.org.

Sunday's events, from 2 to 7:30 p.m., focusing on the intersection of soil, food, faith and climate change, include a resource fair and breakout sessions with the following topics and presenters:

- Nana Firman of the International Islamic Climate Change Symposium and Green Mosque program
- The Mystery and Science of Soil with soil scientist and rock musician Dr. James Cassidy, OSU
- The Future of Food Justice with Groundwork Portland's Edward Hill and Willie Chambers
- Young People Speak on Food, Climate, Future with Young Woodley, son of Randy Woodley
- Catholic Farmers Reflect on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*
- Evangelicals, the Encyclical and Earth Care
- Your Backyard and Beyond: Why, Where and How We Should Restore Nature
- Kristin Ohlson, author of *The Soil Will Save Us*, called "the best book by far on soil regeneration."

Registration for all events is now open through Jan. 22 online at emoregon.org/events.php. Prices for Saturday's kick-off *Climate Arts* are \$13 in advance or a \$15 suggested donation at the door. Sunday's prices

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ 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)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

for the *Summit* are \$35 including dinner, \$15 program only, and \$280 for a co-sponsoring dinner table of eight, with names included on publicity. Deadline for co-sponsorship is Monday, Jan. 25; to make arrangements, please contact Heather Moline at moline@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054, ext. 205.

Sponsored and organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and the University of Portland. Current co-sponsors include the Archdiocese of Portland, George Fox Evangelical Seminary, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, the EcoJustice Team of the Presbytery of the Cascades, EcoFaith Recovery, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal, Franciscan Montessori Earth School, First Unitarian Church of Portland, and the Climate Jobs PDX Committee.

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, 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.