

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon statement on minimum wage vote**

Salem, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House voted to approve SB1532, which will increase the minimum wage. Following the vote, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) issued the following statement:

“As Oregonians, we believe in the inherent dignity of work and that those who work should be able to support themselves and their families, regardless of the job they do. For many of our neighbors, however, it is simply not possible to get by on their income alone. In Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) provides food and clothing to over 2,000 people each month— 40 percent of them children and many from households with a working adult. We are encouraged that an increase in income for the more than 100,000 Oregonians currently earning the minimum wage will help our clients and families throughout Oregon afford the basics.”

For more information about NEFP, go to [emoregon.org/NE\\_food\\_program.php](http://emoregon.org/NE_food_program.php).

For the most recent data on the number of Oregonians earning the minimum wage, go to <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/33164> , page 2.

*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. Please note, the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.*

#### **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