

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: Nov. 10, 2009  
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### **EMO executive director, David Leslie, honored with national ecumenical award**

The National Council of Churches (NCC) and Church World Service (CWS) will honor Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Executive Director David Leslie with the prestigious Eugene Carson Blake Award for Ecumenism in 2009. The award will be presented to Leslie at the NCC and CWS Annual Conference on Nov. 11 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Executive director of one of the nation's largest and longest-lasting regional ecumenical associations (EMO), Leslie is also a member of the NCC Interfaith Relations Commission, National Religious Campaign Against Torture Board of Directors, Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy at Pacific University, Northwest Workers' Justice Project Advisory Board and State of Oregon Ending Homelessness Advisory Council. He is currently the chair of the national Ecumenical Task Force on Immigration convened by the NCC and CWS. Leslie has also served on the NCC Human Genetics Policy Task Force, Oregon Department of Human Services Faith and Community-based Advisory Group, Oregon Senate Interim Committee on Farmworker Issues and the Oregon Governor's Global Warming Advisory Group.

Leslie is a frequent speaker and writer on a wide range of topics related to peacemaking, interfaith relations, social justice, and religion and society. He attended the World Parliament of Religions in Cape Town, South Africa; presented at the Global Congress of Religions in Montreal, Canada; was a member of the NCC delegation for the dedication of the first Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Havana, Cuba, in 2004; and was the guest preacher at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

The Eugene Carson Blake Award is given in recognition of "welcoming outreach to those beyond the common bounds of ecumenism, a profound commitment to the Gospel's justice, and the establishment of

#### 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

ecumenical understandings, agencies or activities that deepen the kinship of Christians of every race and nation.”

Established last year on the centennial of Dr. Blake’s birth, the award commemorates the leading ecumenist and former president of the National Council of Churches, founder of the Consultation of Church Union and general secretary of the World Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse, EMO president and minister of discipleship at First United Methodist Church, said, “This is a tribute to David’s outstanding work and leadership not only in our region, but nationally—and also to his longstanding commitment to ecumenism, justice and creating a spirit of understanding among people of different faiths, experiences and traditions. It’s a special honor to receive the award named after Eugene Carson Blake, given his history and commitment to ecumenism.”

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—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.*