

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Alert

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Earth stewardship sermons honored

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and its Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project are pleased to announce winners of *Earth Words: Recognizing faith messages that inspire change*. The grand prize winner was the Rev. Robyn Hartwig of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton, whose sermon was titled "Earth Sunday." The two runners up were the Rev. John Pitney of First United Methodist Church in Eugene and the Rev. Brooks Berndt of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, Wash.

The contest was open to clergy and laity who wrote and delivered a sermon, homily or other written and spoken faith message on care for the Earth. It was intended as an opportunity for congregations of all faiths to remember their deep faith connections to the Earth and to inspire sustainable living. Entries were evaluated on clarity and focus of the entire sermon, aesthetic appeal, theological foundation, call to action and creativity.

Each winner will receive a gift certificate for energy efficient light bulbs from www.ShopIPL.com for use in their congregation or to give to people with low-incomes through a local charity. The top winner will also receive a \$50 gift certificate to Powell's Books.

To see transcripts of the winning sermons go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php.

The 2010 contest will encourage clergy and lay speakers of all faiths to provide a sermon or other faith message around the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22). Further details will be announced in October.

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. The Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. EMO 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.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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