

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 & Light project are pleased to announce winners of its third annual *Earth Words: Recognizing faith messages that inspire change*. The grand prize winner was the Rev. Dr. Steven Koski of First Presbyterian Church in Bend, whose sermon was titled "Earth Day: As Big as Christmas and Easter." The two runners up were the Rev. Brooks Berndt of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, Wash and the Rev. Katherine Jesch, a Unitarian minister from Portland.

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. The contest is 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, creativity, accessibility and use of science.

Each winner will receive energy efficient light bulbs from www.ShopIPL.org, an online store for discounted energy product, for use in their congregation or to give to people with low-incomes through a local charity. The winners will also receive gift certificates to Powell's Books. To see transcripts of the winning sermons, go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php.

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 & 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