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### **Interfaith community advocates for climate stewardship at Oregon state capitol**

People of faith from throughout Oregon will gather on Wednesday, March 4, at Willamette University's Hudson Hall for the second "Interfaith Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day." In the morning, participants will listen to faith perspectives on global warming, a representative of Governor Ted Kulongoski's office, legislative briefings and panel of citizens, and engage in dialogue. They will walk across the street to the capitol in the afternoon to share moral concerns on energy and climate stewardship with legislators.

Event panelist, Rabbi James Greene, believes that global climate change is "one of the greatest moral imperatives of our time." He states, "My faith tradition teaches us that God commanded humanity to 'keep watch over the earth and to service the land.' (Genesis 1:28) We have simply not lived up to our part of the bargain. As people of faith, we must come together and assert our common connection, as we advocate to our legislators for a deeper respect for and protection of God's majestic creation."

Oregon's faith community is not coming late to the issues of energy and climate change. The Advocacy Day emerged from many years' work on both the practical and policy side confronting global warming. Climate change is now seen as a matter of human justice, as well as creation care across a broad spectrum of America's religious community. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) started alerting people of faith to moral dimensions of the issue in the late 1990s. At that time, church councils—from countries seriously affected by climate change such as the Pacific Islands and rain-fed areas of Africa—made it known through world church bodies that the biggest contributor to global warming, the United States, needed to do its part so that their people could live.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a project of EMO, is a sponsor of the event, along Willamette University Chaplains' Office, congregations, denominations and organizations. Since 2001, OIPL has provided over 40 workshops on energy stewardship for homes and congregations, provided educational resources to congregations, and recently a carbon calculator for congregations at [www.coolcongregations.com](http://www.coolcongregations.com).

Opening speaker, Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Synod, serves on Governor Kulongoski's Global Warming Commission. EMO's Executive Director David

#### 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

Leslie and Environmental Ministries Director Jenny Holmes served on the governor's two global warming working groups, which led to the commission. Holmes notes, "The 2009 Oregon Legislature presents outstanding opportunities for helping Oregon become a leader in global warming solutions in ways that will benefit our economy, and most importantly, do the right thing for stewardship."

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) 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.*