

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Interfaith Advocacy Day 2009* will advocate for those hit hard by economic crisis Representatives of many faiths will gather at state capitol on Thursday, Feb. 19**

In the midst a growing economic downturn that threatens to impoverish many Oregon families, members of diverse religious communities are planning to converge on Salem on Feb. 19 for *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2009*. This event will bring together people from many faiths to advocate for programs to combat homelessness, reduce hunger, and provide expanded access to affordable health care for children and low-income adults. The theme for 2009 is “Faithful to Oregon’s Future.” The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE, and the Oregon State Capitol building. More than 300 people are expected to participate.

Interfaith Advocacy Day 2009 will include worship, advocacy and issue trainings, a keynote address from House Speaker Dave Hunt, and prayer and reflection. After lunch, participants will march to the Capitol where they will meet with their legislators, after being welcomed to the Capitol by Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson and Rep. Scott Bruun.

In addition to Speaker Hunt, other confirmed speakers include Bob Horenstein, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland; Cathy Kaufman, Children First for Oregon; Michael Anderson, Oregon Opportunity Network; Stephanie Tama-Sweet, Oregon Food Bank; David Leslie, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; and the Rev. Shelley Willem, St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Individuals and groups from congregations and community organizations are encouraged to participate. The registration fee is \$15 per person (\$10 for students) and includes lunch and materials. The registration form can be downloaded at www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

A growing list of Oregon’s diverse religious organizations are sponsoring *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2009* including: Ainsworth United Church of Christ; Albina Ministerial Alliance; Augustana Lutheran Church; Bilal Mosque Association; Cedar Sinai Park; Church of Scientology, Portland; Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; Episcopal Peace and Justice Commission; Eugene Friends Meeting; Family Bridge; First Congregational United Church of Christ, Salem; First United Methodist Church, Portland; Fremont

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

United Methodist Church Portland; Gorge Ecumenical Ministries; Interfaith Council of Greater Portland; Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon; Inter-Religious Network of Washington County; Jewish Federation of Greater Portland; Jewish Family and Child Service; Muslim Educational Trust; Oregon Area Jewish Committee; Oregon Center for Christian Values; Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger; Oregon Farmworker Ministry; Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Portland Jobs with Justice; Presbytery of the Cascades, Mission Support Committee; St. Luke Lutheran Church; St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem; St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church; SnowCap Community Charities; and Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Voice of the Poor Committee.

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.