

Interchurch Center, Suite B □ 0245 SW Bancroft Street □ Portland, Oregon 97239
phone (503) 221-1054 □ *fax* (503) 223-7007 □ *Web site* www.emoregon.org

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CONTACT: Jenny Holmes, (503) 221-1054, ext. 214

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light honors authors of Earth stewardship sermons

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, is pleased to announce winners of its first ever Earth Day Faith Message Contest. The grand prize winner was The Rev. Kent Harrop of First Baptist Church in McMinnville, whose sermon was titled “Opening Our Eyes to the Sacred.” The two runners up were The Rev. Barbara Campbell of St. Mark Presbyterian in Portland and Terry Buchholz of St. Andrew Lutheran in Beaverton. The winning entries are posted on the OIPL Web page at www.emoregon.org.

Judging committee member The Rev. Ross Miller noted, “We were pleased with the number and quality of the sermons submitted. In creative and diverse ways, these messages drew attention to critical environmental issues. At the same time they called their hearers to acts of stewardship deeply rooted in our faith traditions.”

The contest was open to clergy and laity who wrote and deliver 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 received a gift certificate to Powell’s Books. The congregation of the top prize winner received \$300 worth of energy efficient light bulbs from www.ShopIPL.com for use in the congregation or to give to people with low-incomes through a local charity. The runners up each received \$100 worth of energy efficient light bulbs.

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.

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