

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

## *Media Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 24, 2008

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### Green building for sacred spaces

The reason Cedar Hills United Church of Christ (UCC) is eager to host a Green Building workshop is their community's abiding interest in their sacred space being green. "As people of faith, it is important to consider how we can be better stewards of creation," says Rev. Mary Sue Evers, pastor of the church. "This workshop will help our church and other congregations in the Portland area to better understand the opportunities available to be faithful in the ways we use God's gifts."

"**Green Building and Renovations for Congregations**" will be offered on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Cedar Hills UCC, 11695 SW Park Way, Portland. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. This workshop is sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), and co-sponsored by the Energy Trust of Oregon and Oregon Department of Energy.

Clark Brockman, director of SERA Architect's Sustainability Resource Team, will explore options integrating energy efficient and Living Building™ principles design into new religious buildings and renovations, using Cedar Hills UCC as an example. Fred Rothstein of Congregation Neveh Shalom will share about his synagogue's solar project—one of the first on a religious building in Oregon. Neveh Shalom has newly completed a LEED Silver renovation and addition.

Sr. Pat Nagle, IHM, of Earth Home Ministries and co-chair of OIPL, will tell the story of her order's motherhouse in Michigan and the in-depth process of a green remodel rooted in the order's values and reinterpretation. Doug Boleyn, P.E., owner of Cascade Solar Consulting and Energy Consultant for OIPL, will provide a framework for energy efficient building.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light has helped many congregations retrofit their buildings to be more energy efficient and improve their daily energy conservation practices. For the past three years, OIPL has increased its focus on encouraging religious communities to build using methods that translate into less need for energy in the first place.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light encourages congregations to send a team including trustees, environmental committee members, facility managers and clergy to attend together so they can follow-up. Green building works best when there is collaboration and input from different stakeholders in the congregation. Topics will include an overview of energy-efficient building, why energy is a spiritual issue, integrated design, case studies, getting the results you want—how to work with contractors and architects, OIPL programs and resources, generating energy on-site, financing and rebate opportunities available to congregations through Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon, and integrating energy efficiency with aesthetic and spiritual concerns.

Also presenting will be Jenny Holmes, EMO's Environmental Ministries director; Ed Wales, outreach and program manager, New Building Program, SAIC, for Energy Trust of Oregon; and Matt Hale, Oregon Department of Energy.

Registration is \$30, including lunch. Discounts are available to groups of three or more from the same congregation. To register for the workshop, please call (503) 221-1054 or e-mail [ewetherell@emoregon.org](mailto:ewetherell@emoregon.org). A complete brochure is available at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org), along with case studies of Oregon's first green religious facility.

#### 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

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light 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 16 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry, and public policy advocacy.