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Interfaith call to action for climate stewardship

On Sept. 18, over 120 people of faith from throughout the state gathered at the *Oregon Faith Leaders' Summit on Climate Stewardship* in Salem to consider their role in slowing global warming and chart directions for the next phase of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. Speakers and participants stressed the need for leadership at all levels—families, neighborhoods, congregations, communities and local, state and national government.

The pivotal role of state government was highlighted at the Summit during a press conference about the release of *Driven by Values*—a report recommending ways to improve the fuel efficiency of the state of Oregon's vehicle fleet in order to save money and protect the environment (view the full report at www.emoregon.org/inec.htm). Religious leaders presented the report to Secretary of State

Bill Bradbury for Governor Kulongoski. Jenny Holmes, campaign coordinator, stated, "It's clear to Oregon's religious leaders, that if we can find a way to address vehicle pollution and save the state money, it is our moral obligation to do so. Oregon has an excellent opportunity to support the governor's *Executive Order on Sustainability*, that calls upon state agencies to move Oregon to a more sustainable state."

Bradbury, chair of Oregon's Sustainability Board, spoke about what the state is doing both to save money and resources through its sustainability efforts and encouraged faith communities to take similar steps. Bradbury stated, "I am really excited about the impact this group can have, not just on Oregon, but on the entire world. We need to expand our image as a sustainability leader in Oregon."

A panel of leaders from four faith traditions explored

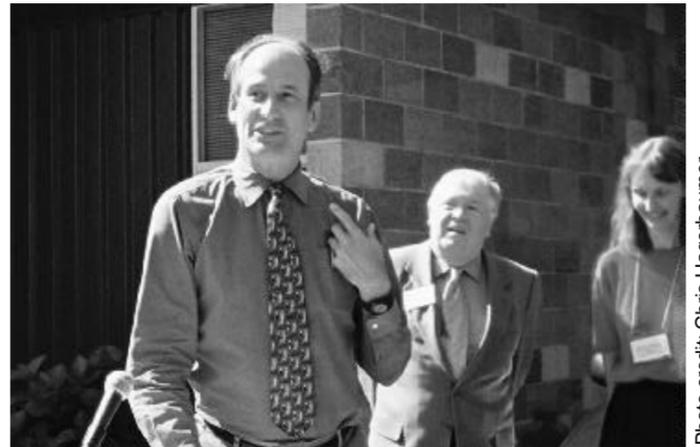


Photo credit: Chris Hagerbaumer

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury responds to the *Driven by Values* report, presented by the Rev. Gene Ross, president of the EMO board of directors, with Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries director.

the moral imperative to address global warming. Panelist Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankins noted, "Judaism directs us to be very concerned about the condition of the world. We plant a tree, then greet the Messiah." Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, stressed the need to integrate social and environmental concerns. "We are to take care of the earth

because it is God's, not ours," said Tully. "Poorer nations have a place at the table."

The campaign steering committee will look at the recommendations and insights provided by speakers and participants as it shapes the next phase of the campaign this fall. The campaign is accepting applications for new steering committee members. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

EMO active in longest legislative session

The 72nd Legislative Assembly adjourned in late August in what became the longest session in Oregon history, lasting 227 days. Facing a budget shortfall of about \$2 billion, the Legislature tackled revenue projections that placed the 2003-05 budget on the same level as the 1999-2001 budget. The Legislature approved an \$11.6 billion general fund budget that included a temporary tax increase. However, the services funded under the 2003-05 legislatively approved budget

could be in jeopardy if a repeal of the temporary income tax surcharge is successful.

EMO gained substantial

concessions in HB 5030—the bill that funds the Oregon Department of Human Services. Several programs

slated for cuts were restored, including the Oregon Health Plan, medical assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS and organ transplant survivors, long-term care for the elderly, welfare services for needy families, assistance for the mentally ill and disabled, and daycare support for low-income working parents.

There were several attempts to repeal the 2002 voter-approved Measure 25 that adjusted the minimum wage to keep up with inflation. There was a last minute

Highlights for EMO during the 2003 session include the passage of the following bills:

- ✓ SB 287—Creates a summer food program in schools with a high percentage of low-income students.
- ✓ SB 500 & SB 501—Provides food coupons to low-income seniors, women, infants and children to use at farmers markets.
- ✓ HB 2450—Qualifies education and skills training as meeting the welfare to work requirements.
- ✓ SB 875—Creates bulk prescription drug purchasing pool for public agencies and private individuals.
- ✓ HB 2043—Creates an option for insurance companies to offer "pay as you drive" policy.

For the text of these bills, go to www.leg.state.or.us.

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Look inside this issue
of the *Voice* for

EMO's
*Peace
Resource
Guide*

EMO celebrates 30 years of service

"Your heritage is the faith... (of) those of every generation who have looked to God in hope." - Episcopal Service of Consecration

Next year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will begin a year-long 30th anniversary celebration. On Dec. 5, 1973, EMO was officially incorporated by the state of Oregon as a religious non-profit. EMO was birthed with the merger of the Oregon Council of Churches and the Portland Council of Churches. According to the Articles of Incorporation, its purpose is "to further the unity and renewal in the Christian church life and in the common life of the community; to develop and foster various church functions based upon service ... strategizing, modeling and advocating in behalf of the Christian religious movement and the betterment of mankind."

The story of EMO is truly a community story centered on the commitments of countless numbers of people dedicated to peace, justice and the unity of God's creation.

The initial Board of Directors included Portland religious leadership of the day: Dr. Laurence Byers (Westminster Presbyterian Church); Fr. Bertram (Bert) Griffin (Archdiocese of Portland); Bishop Jack M. Tuell (United Methodist Church), among others. The first executive director of EMO was Dick Hughes.

Today, EMO can proudly know that it has lived faithfully in the

mission to which it was called. EMO has started a diversity of programs that address the myriad of needs facing people throughout the state. The HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express were pioneering programs serving the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Russian Oregon Social Services and Portland International Community School continue to offer welcoming services to refugees and immigrants. The Letty Owings Center, Parent Mentor Program, Drug Education Program and Oregon Recovery Homes are part of the continuum of services that EMO has developed to help people in recovery stay clean and sober.

Throughout its history, EMO has also made it a priority to step in and help when an organization needed a partner to ensure that the service was not lost. When Hospice House had to close in the early 1990s, EMO answered the call and re-opened Hospice House as Hopewell House. Patton Home—our "Miracle on Michigan Street" in north Portland—provides a glowing example of EMO's leadership. When unable to continue as a stand alone non-profit, EMO took over and has led the community efforts to revitalize this magnificent community resource that includes 63 units of drug- and alcohol-free housing. Through these programs, people are gaining the skills to better help themselves, as well as to serve one another.

Driven by the desire to "foster unity and renewal ... of the common life of the wider

community," our public policy initiatives, publications, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and education programs, and environmental ministries continue to shape religious thinking and activism on many of the difficult issues of the day. These include environmental stewardship, interfaith relations, Christian unity, taxation, human services and the safety net, capital punishment and medical ethics. We are reaching across the state to provide resources that help broaden and deepen ministry, thereby positively impacting the wider community.

The story of EMO will be told by many people in many ways in the days ahead. The story of EMO is truly a community story centered on the commitments of countless numbers of people dedicated to peace, justice and the unity of God's creation. It is a story of lives changed because of encounters with other people—the heart of the ecumenical journey.

As we move into the season of remembrances—All Saints Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas—please remember Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon through prayer, giving and volunteering. And, remember your advance invitation to the 30th Anniversary Celebration—a year-long party to celebrate the past accomplishments, but more importantly, to strengthen our commitment to serve for 30 more years and beyond.

Join us for a Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) Fundraiser

At McMenamin's Kennedy School Courtyard Restaurant, 5736 NE 33rd, Portland, on Nov. 10, from 5 p.m. until closing. Half of the proceeds will go to NEFP.



David Leslie

Baker to lead EMO's development and communications



Bob Baker has been named Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) new director of development and communications. Baker joined EMO on Aug. 4, 2003, and succeeds Stephanie (Howell) Stoller, who is now working with the Visiting Nurse Association Foundation for Legacy Health System.

Baker has a wealth of nonprofit experience. His former positions include executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Portland, director of field services with the American Cancer Society of Oregon Division and senior vice president of Easter Seals Oregon. Most recently, he was executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Oregon-Greater Idaho Chapter. Baker also contracted with EMO on farm foreclosure and agricultural issues in the late 1980s. He received a B.S. degree in Psychology from Portland State University.

Baker will bring to EMO strong fundraising experience, as well as program and organizational leadership. "I am excited about returning to a religious-based organization that is well respected in the community and engaged in life-changing, spiritually-based service and ministry," stated Baker.



EMO celebrates recent grants and gifts

The board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to the many supporters who have given their time and talents in support of EMO's program ministries. The following is a list of recent foundation and community support received by EMO.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Children's Trust Fund	Parent Mentor Program
Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)	Northeast Emergency Food Program
Marketta Buckler Trust	EMO Annual Fund
National Religious Partnership for the Environment	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Oregon Department of Justice/VOCA PacifiCorp	Russian Oregon Social Services
Rose Tucker Charitable Trust	Portland International Community School
United Church of Christ Hunger Fund	Portland International Community School
	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

voice

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
American Baptist Church • 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

Christmas in July a huge success

Community project collects over 6,780 pounds of nonperishable food and toiletry items

This July, the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) partnered with a community group and congregations around the Portland metro area for *Christmas in July*—an annual NEFP project designed to spur compassion and giving during the summer when there is traditionally less focus on charity. The project integrates simple worship and education with a food drive and fundraising. *Christmas in July* offers churches and community groups an opportunity to participate directly in a local ministry and ensures an adequate supply of nutritious food to the increasing number of area residents in crisis. This year, 6,785 pounds of nonperishable food and toiletry items were collected, as well as nearly \$4,000 for NEFP to buy food at wholesale costs.

The following churches and community group are commended for their faithful participation this year: Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Augustana Lutheran,

Central Lutheran, Christ Church Episcopal, First Christian Church, Fremont United Methodist, Grace Memorial Episcopal, Holladay Park Plaza, Hughes Memorial United Methodist, Piedmont Presbyterian, Redeemer Lutheran, St. Andrew Catholic, St. Luke Lutheran, St. Michael's & All Angels Episcopal, St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal, Vernon Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian and Woodlawn United Methodist. Thank you members for your generosity and care for our hungry neighbors.

If your community group or congregation would like to participate next July in this event with NEFP or at any point throughout the year, please call Millyellen Strayer at (503) 284-5470.



Photo credit: Stephanie (Howell) Stoller

Staff and volunteers unload weekly Oregon Food Bank delivery at NEFP. Monetary gifts enable NEFP to purchase food at wholesale throughout the year.

October is Hunger Awareness Month

Did you know . . .

- Oregon remains first in the nation for hunger.
- Children and families have the greatest need for emergency food; 40 percent of those receiving emergency food boxes are children 17 and under.
- Most adult recipients are working, retired or disabled.
- The Oregon Food Bank's network of 317 food pantries (including EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program) distributed emergency food boxes to an estimate of more than 720,000 hungry people between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, an increase of ten percent from the previous year.

Source: Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger formed to address hunger's root causes

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) work in hunger advocacy has led to the formation of the *Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger*, an interreligious effort to address the root causes of hunger in Oregon.

The goal of the roundtable is to bring together faith-based organizations involved in emergency food distribution, food security and advocacy, so that the religious community can more effectively reduce hunger in Oregon.

The roundtable includes service providers, advocacy groups and faith leaders. In addition to EMO, founding members include Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, the Oregon Catholic Conference, the Portland Jewish Federation, the Presbytery of the Cascades and the American Jewish Committee.

Governor Kulongoski to attend kick-off event

Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger is hosting an Interfaith Breakfast with Governor Kulongoski on Oct. 13, from 8 to 10 a.m., at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Tickets for the breakfast are \$10. For more information, please call Norene Goplen, at (503) 731-9519. To register, please call (503) 295-6761 or e-mail Portland@ajc.org.

INEC seeks congregational involvement for community food security effort

Food has the potential to weave together the land, people and communities into a fabric of relationships that foster justice and sustainability. Unfortunately, the food we eat often represents unjust relationships and a degraded Earth. Community food security (CFS)—defined as all persons in a community having access to fresh, local, culturally appropriate food at all times in a community—is a concept and process that creates healthy relationships around food.

Since Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) started its efforts to promote CFS ministries in the faith community in 1997, CFS has increasingly become a pathway for connecting the faith community's longstanding concern for hunger with sustainability and economic justice. Thanks to support from the Presbyterian Hunger

Program and the United Church of Christ Hunger Program, INEC will be partnering with congregations and

community groups to host CFS workshops throughout the Willamette Valley. The workshops will explore the connections between food and faith, ways to educate congregations and tools for starting and sustaining community food security projects and ministries. Each workshop will be organized to build a local network for mutual support and action.

If you would like to host a workshop at your congregation or you have a project to share, please call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.



Legislative update

Continued from page 1

"gutting and stuffing" of a bill with a farm worker collective bargaining law that passed a House committee, despite no public hearing and no agreement between growers and the farm worker union. There were attempts to empower local enforcement with INS authority to arrest individuals based solely on their immigration status—a tool that could be used to intimidate non-white immigrants. And, there was a bill that would register people for the armed services when applying for a driver's permit or license. None of the bills survived the session, despite passage or strong support in the Oregon House of Representatives. The evenly divided Oregon Senate adjourned before these bills could be considered for a vote.

Among the key bills that came out of the session were a temporary income tax surcharge and a resolution to convene the Legislature in June 2004 to enact tax reform. Both are controversial and promise to create much public discussion about the vision and direction of Oregon. EMO has been very supportive of tax reform in order to ensure that basic human needs are met. EMO will be pursuing further study into both matters and hopes to provide some guidance in the public discussion.

If local congregations are interested in pursuing their own discernment process on tax reform or the income tax surcharge, EMO will help arrange for speakers or provide training. Call Phillip Kennedy-Wong at (503) 221-1054.



Photo credit: Lyudmila Blashchishena

On Sept. 14, staff members and clients from EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) participated in the **Komen Race for the Cure**. ROSS receives funding from the Komen Foundation for breast health education.

Calendar of Events

October 15

2nd Annual Community Faith Forum of the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kingstad Conference Center, Beaverton. Special Community Service Awards will be given at the event for outstanding leadership to Washington County. To register, send your name and \$8 (includes breakfast and lunch) to VAN, 3700 SW Murray, Beaverton, OR 97005.

October 24

The Heart of Christianity. 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Lecture on portrait of Christianity as metaphor and sacrament of God and of the personal and political transformation at the center of the Christian life. Cost is \$15. For more information, call (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

October 31 & November 1

Abrahamic Initiative Events: The Promise and Peril in Islam's Relations with Judaism and Christianity (lecture), from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31, and *The Most Important Things to Understand About Religion (workshop)*, 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 1, both at The Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Led by Huston Smith, the author of 14 books, including *Why Religion Matters*, which won the Wilbur Award for the best book on religion published in 2001. Costs: lecture, \$20; workshop \$35 (does not include lunch). For more information, call (503) 478-1218.

November 14 & 15

Abrahamic Initiative Events: Knowing One Another—A Muslim American Reflects on Pluralism and Islam (lecture), 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 14, and *What Is Islam? Who Is a Muslim? A Framework for Understanding Muslim Expressions of Faith (workshop)*, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, both at The Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Ali Asani will present the many ways in which Islam is understood and practiced. Costs: lecture, \$15; workshop \$50 (lunch included). For more information, call (503) 478-1218.

December 5 & 6

Recovering the Mystical Dimension of Faith (lecture), 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 5, and *Embodied Holiness (workshop)*, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 6, both at The Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Led by Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest, popular speaker and workshop leader, and one of the "twelve most effective preachers in the English language," according to Baylor University. Costs: lecture, \$15; workshop, \$50 (includes lunch). For more information, call (503) 478-1218.

December 7 to 9

Contemplative Advent Retreat: A Contemplative Advent Retreat of Silence and Creativity. Begins at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Alton Collins Retreat Center, near Eagle Creek, Ore. This will be a time to enter into the Advent mystery through guided meditations, personal reflection and lots of silence. Cost of the retreat is \$200, which includes single room occupancy housing, six meals, leadership and resources. For more information, contact Dale Stitt at (503) 244-4728 or visit www.journeyintofreedom.org.

To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please e-mail mbush@emoregon.org.

Upcoming EMO sponsored & co-sponsored events

October 13

Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger—Interfaith Breakfast with Governor Kulongoski. 8 to 10 a.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Tickets for the breakfast are \$10. To register, please call (503) 295-6761 or e-mail Portland@ajc.org.



November 3

Jewish Perspectives on Ethics in Healthcare: Care, Family and Community. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Chiles Center, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland. Providence Center for Health Care Ethics presents this public lecture by Laurie Zoloth, Ph.D., director of Bioethics, Center for Genetic Medicine, and Professor of Medical Ethics and Professor of Religion, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. Co-sponsored by the University of Portland School of Nursing and EMO. No cost or pre-registration required.

November 10

EMO Program Tour. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (includes lunch) at 0245 SW Bancroft, Suite B, Portland. EMO offers an interactive tour of our ministries and services in the community. The tour is free and offered to anyone who is interested. To reserve your space, call (503) 221-1054.

January 17

Community Food Security Workshop. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Phillip Neri Catholic Parish, SE 18th and Division, Portland. This workshop will explore the connection between food and faith, the ethics and politics of food, the concept of community food security and effective congregational engagement. The workshop will include presenters with expertise in family farming, community gardens, congregational organizing, theology of food and food policy. Cost is \$10 to \$25 (sliding scale). To register, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278. Additional workshops will be held in February and March in Salem, northeast Portland, Corvallis and Eugene.

January 24

Celtic Spirituality and Our World: Adapting an Ancient Way of Being for Today's Environmental Concerns. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 125 S. Cows St., McMinnville. This dynamic, experiential workshop is facilitated by Sally Woolley, Iona Community Associate Member, and will include Celtic music by Robert Rife. Cost: \$25. Bring a brown bag lunch. Sponsored by EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns; First Baptist Church, McMinnville; and the Progressive Christianity Alliance of Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278. Additional workshops are being planned for Pendleton and other locations for Spring 2004.

EMO seeking ecumenical award nominees

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) annually recognizes individuals and groups in the community who have demonstrated a commitment to ecumenical service in Oregon. Award presentations for 2003 will be made at the EMO Community Celebration on Feb. 17, 2004. Nomination forms may be downloaded off EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054. They will be accepted until Nov. 14. The EMO Awards Committee will review nominations in November and notify award recipients and nominators prior to the annual Community Celebration.

It is not too early to begin thinking of individuals, congregations or other interfaith, ecumenical or religious organizations and businesses that deserve to be nominated for the following awards:

Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award

Presented in recognition of how an outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility has significantly enhanced ecumenical efforts in the state and quality of life for all. The award is named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife, Jean.

Louise Hunderup Religious Education Award

Presented in recognition of outstanding educational leadership to the religious community of Oregon. The award is named for Louise Hunderup, who for over 30 years was the director of Christian Education for the Greater Portland Council of Churches, one of the predecessor organizations of EMO.

Ecumenical Service Award

Presented in recognition of special achievements in supporting ecumenical community ministries in Oregon.

The Two Pauls Award

Presented in recognition of outstanding promotion of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, service and relations. The award was established in 1994 to honor two significant Oregon clergy members, The Rev. Dr. Paul Wright and The Most Rev. Paul Waldschmidt.

Ecumenist of the Year

Presented in recognition of outstanding efforts to promote ecumenism through a commitment to theological education and dialogue, community ministry and justice advocacy.

For more information about the annual awards or Community Celebration, please contact Bob Baker at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275.

Mark your calendar!

❖ EMO Sunday: Jan. 11, 2004

❖ EMO's Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner: Feb 17, 2004

For more information about these events, contact Bob Baker at (503) 221-1504.