Expanding ecumenical witness

Of the many 2007 highlights at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), the most remarkable is the exponential increase in our membership. It is moving to witness the positive response of so many new congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners in support of EMO’s mission, “to join together in ministry, dialogue and service to witness God’s love and our collective hope for God’s creation.” In addition to our 16 denominational members, we added over 80 new members, who are highlighted in bold text in this report. As well as providing a stronger fiscal base for EMO, our new membership most importantly creates opportunities for deeper relationships and interactions among faith communities, and for collaborative ministry addressing some of Oregon’s most challenging problems.

As this expansion makes clear, EMO takes seriously the contemporary Gospel message of hospitality and service in the spirit of justice, peace and unity. We invite you to join in our numerous community ministry programs, theological dialogue and education opportunities, environmental and public policy advocacy, and prayer and worship activities, all of which connect people and communities of faith to work together to improve the lives of all Oregonians. Our Web site (www.emoregon.org) is a good place to connect to EMO, as well as to a number of other interreligious events and activities throughout Oregon.

Important to our efforts in 2007 were the completion of the Patton Home Capital Campaign (including the dedication of the Rodney Page Community Ministries Center), the creation of advisory committees on “Human Needs” and “Refugee and Immigration Services” supporting our Community Ministries programs, and the launch of the inaugural Interfaith Energy and Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day at the Oregon Legislature. EMO was also the catalyst for interreligious efforts to increase health care access in Oregon and developed the Oregon Interreligious Campaign Against Torture, currently supported by nearly 700 congregations and people of faith throughout the state.

This coming year will be characterized by increasing membership, expanded programming, more statewide outreach on critical issues, and increased planned giving and endowment building to solidify our long-term financial future. As this report details, we are blessed to be able to gather and support such a broad group of members and collaborators to work together in the spirit of Jesus’ prayer “that they all may be one.” We invite you to join with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in the days ahead.

Faithfully,

James Buck    David A Leslie
President    Executive Director

Letty Owings    Lifetime Member
David A Leslie    Executive Director

EMO 2007 Financial Report

Revenues: $2,836,996

Expenses: $2,890,233

In 2007, over 400 volunteers helped Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon serve the needs of nearly 35,000 Oregonians.
2 We extend our deep appreciation for the generosity of our partners

Affordable Housing

Emunual Ministry of Oregon (EMO) has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the unmet needs of its key partners for providing the services listed below.

Patton Home is a beautiful and gracious 100-year-old single-family residence in northeast Portland offering drug- and alcohol-free housing for up to 63 low-income residents.

Shared Housing provides affordable housing opportunities throughout a matching referral and togetherness among those who need affordable housing with people who have homes and need help with rent, household chores or personal care.

Businesses, Corporations & Organizations


Affordable Housing in 2007 ... The Patton Home provided over 700 months of affordable, drug- and alcohol-free housing for residents recovering from substance abuse or transitioning from homelessness. Shared Housing served 423 clients, providing 1,123 months of individual housing to 222 individuals; the program moved to a larger office space at First Baptist Church in downtown Portland and added new staff.

Hunger, Nutrition & Social Support

In 2007 ... Food Services/Delissio Catering served 1,820 meals per week for students at six local schools, residents at the Patton Home and clients of EMO's HIV Services program. HIV Services assisted 302 Day Center and Daily Bread Express clients, providing them with 16,281 meals and 6,167 therapeutic encounters.

Neighborhood Emergency Food Program relocated to Luther Memorial Church, after nearly 20 years at Redeemer Lutheran, and expanded its services to include a two-style food pantry and a clothing program.

Hunger, Nutrition & Social Support

Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO's basic human needs programs, which are listed below.

Food Services/Delissio Catering prepares nutritious meals for clients at the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express, residents at the Patton Home and students at six local schools. The program also runs a catering service, providing quality and affordable food for events.

HIV Services offers a wide range of assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS. The Day Center provides meals, counseling, recreational therapy, computers, phone service, clothing and showers. The Daily Bread Express is the only one in Portland that delivers hot and frozen meals to home-bound individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) provides nutritionally-balanced food for people in critical need and works to develop neighborhood-based solutions to secure access to affordable, adequate and healthy foods.

Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)
EMO’s Environmental Ministries held the first Interfaith Energy & Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day in February attended by over 130 people from across the state at the biodiesel-fueled bus. 

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) carries out EMO’s Environmental Ministries’ mission of earth stewardship by connecting, informing and empowering Ministries’ mission of earth stewardship by connecting, informing and empowering congregations and religious organizations to work for justice, care and renewal of creation.

Public Policy Advocacy in 2007 ***

Lobbying actively in support of successful anti-discrimination legislation (SB 2) and domestic partnerships bill (HB 2007) *** Successfully advocated for an expanded state earned income tax credit (EITC) and tighter regulation of payday lending and supported increased funding for health and human service programs during the 2007 Legislative Session *** Lobbied offices of Senator Gordon Smith, Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Earl Blumenauer on tax reform and economic stimulus issues.

Environmental Ministries in 2007... Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (IOPL) assisted over 70 new congregations with energy stewardship, gave 17 presentations on faith and global warming, held workshops on green building for congregations and stewardship for congregations and households, and a program to launch make solar affordable for congregations Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership facilitated the partnerships of 15 congregations with local farmers to increase support for small family farms, while improving access to fresh, local food for low-income people.

In February, EMO’s Public Policy program organized the largest ever Interfaith Advocacy Day, “Family and Community Stability is a Right for All Oregonians,” attended by 300 people and co-sponsored by nearly 50 faith-based organizations.

Public Policy Advocacy EMO believes that we call to promote justice and compassion, ensuring that all Oregonians are able to live their full lives of potential and value.

EMO’s advocacy network Christians for Peace and Justice unites individuals, congregations and religious organizations from different denominations across the state who are committed to advocating for social justice as witnesses to the public policy process on a state and national level.
Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) provides services to refugees from the following countries: Burma, Cuba, the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Iran, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet and Vietnam.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM)

EMO’s Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants in the Portland metropolitan area through the programs listed below.

Portland International Community (PICIS) provides culturally-relevant and compassionate education in collaboration with Portland Public Schools for refugee, immigrant and first generation high school students.

Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) gives assistance to Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants, including domestic violence services, breast health education, mental health counseling, youth services, ESL and computer classes, citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) offers resettlement and comprehensive services to refugees through church and other sponsorships, including asylum coordination.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) in 2007...

Portland International Community School completed the ‘06-’07 school year with 5055 students, more than doubling enrollment during the year, and had over 200 student volunteers and interns from Portland State University, University of Portland, Linfield College, George Fox and Central Catholic High School.

Russian Oregon Social Services provided direct services to 8400 Russian-speaking people and received increased funding from the Oregon Department of Justice and new funding for the ROSS Preparedness Project, which allowed ROSS to increase staff and expand services.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees began “Citizen-ship” and “Crime and Victimization” classes for CHAP Immigrant Assistance Program clients.

Theological Education & Dialogue (TED) in 2007...

Presented the 39th Collins Lecture and Conference, titled “From Despair to Hope: An Interreligious Response to the Crisis of Poverty,” featuring E.J. Dionne, Jr., syndicated columnist, with 200 people attending the conference and over 300 attending the lecture.

Completed the second year of partnership with the Pacific Institute on Ethics and Social Policy on the “Faith Forum on Genetics,” addressing the ethical, religious and social implications of genetic technologies, with 11 congregations and 10 denominations participating.

Cospomplied a series of nine monthly interfaith services—represented by 10 faith traditions and attended by nearly 1000 people during the series—which were focused on the moral issues of poverty, peace and the environment.

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