**40 years of serving together in faith**

“Anticipation” aptly describes life at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) in 2013. In 1973, the Boards of Directors of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches began the process of dissolving these two organizations and creating a new statewide organization—Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon—which began operations in 1974. In anticipation of our 40th anniversary, we spent several years assessing the impact that EMO has made over this period, while envisioning the future direction of the call to faithfully serve the church and broader society. Through this visioning process, we reaffirmed the core commitment to build unity in service and ministry to effectively address the many challenges that all too many people and communities face living on the margins of society. We also affirmed the importance of our regional commitments, knowing well that issues related to the future of the church and the commons connect both rural and urban communities. This geographic ecumenism was important to the founders of EMO and continues to be central to our mission outreach today.

Oregon’s demographics are becoming increasingly diverse. As we look forward, equity and inclusion become increasingly important as we develop new ministries and programs. Principles of hospitality, welcoming the stranger, peacemaking, economic justice and compassion will continue to undergird our collective witness in the days ahead. Forty years ago, with God’s help, people of faith with big visions about the future of both the church and broader society in Oregon created EMO. Today, the commitments of these visionaries continue to be lived into, as seen through our ecumenical and interreligious commitments in service to people living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and immigrants seeking relief from oppression, and families living in poverty. As this report indicates, our mission continues to be carried out through the faithful efforts of a multitude of contemporary visionaries whose generosity of time and talent and the financial resources of thousands of individuals and organizations make real the healing and transformative power of faith and hope-filled collective action.

On behalf of the communities and people that make EMO such an extraordinary organization, we anticipate many more great years of ministry together, and we thank you for your faithful witness and support.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt
President

David A. Leslie
Executive Director

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**Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue & Peacemaking**

*Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8*

Our interfaith education and theological dialogue programs help congregations and individuals deepen their own commitments and better understand their neighbors. Each year, EMO offers workshops, discussions, lectures, presentations, celebrations and prayer vigils to celebrate Christian unity, foster interfaith relations, and explore ethical and moral issues. We also sponsor the annual Collins Lectures, designed to provide an opportunity for clergy and laity to explore issues related to religion and social ethics.

- Celebrated ecumenical and community leadership in Oregon with our annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner, which was attended by 315 guests and raised over $53,000 for EMO’s ministries.
- Participated in the University of Portland’s “Faith-based Leadership Program,” designed to give high-achieving juniors an internship and mentoring at a faith-based organization.
- Cosponsored with Bread for the World a homiletics workshop on ending hunger with the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr.

In 2013, EMO provided internships for 38 young adults from Concordia University, De LaSalle North Catholic High School, George Fox University, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Lewis & Clark College, Linfield College, Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon Health Sciences University, Pacific University, Portland Community College, Portland State University, University of Portland, and Willamette University.

“Faith-based Leadership Program” participant Kelsey Robison (left) was mentored by Executive Director David Leslie during her internship at EMO.
Environmental Ministry

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1

Our Environmental Ministry programs connect, inform, inspire and empower people, congregations and religious institutions to work for environmental justice and the care and renewal of the earth. We foster an awareness that care for creation is integral to a life of faith.

Last year, IFPP compiled 236 resident surveys for a community food assessment in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham. In response to the identified needs of residents, a sanctuary community garden was established in the neighborhood.

Thank you to the 1,443 donors and foundations (listed on these pages) who gave $803,106 to EMO during 2013.

Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFFP) partnered with the Tributary Fund, Pollinator Partnership, and the Interfaith Pollinator Task Force to award 13 mini grants and conduct webinars for faith communities on pollinator conservation; organized a food justice fundraiser, Extreme Makeover: Addressing Hunger Beyond Charity, and a Food Ethics Conference featuring Dr. Norm Wirzba.

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) carried out our Environmental Ministry mission of earth stewardship in 2013 with the fourth annual Earth Care Summit, with the theme “Living Waters.”

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) sponsored an interfaith luncheon for over 125 people with environmental activist and author Bill McKibben, speaking on “Faith in the Global Movement for Climate Justice”; prepared a fossil fuel divestment resolution that was passed by the EMO Board of Directors.
Public Policy Advocacy

Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream. AMOS 5:23

EMO’s public witness and advocacy work addresses issues to support the marginalized, poor and voiceless. We are a consistent faith presence at the Oregon Legislature, and we also train and engage congregations and people of faith so that they may participate in this important aspect of our ministry.

Last year, EMO’s Public Policy priorities included economic justice, immigrant rights, criminal justice reform, and funding for important social service programs that help those at risk of hunger and homelessness.

During the Legislative Session, EMO worked with our coalition partners to pass a criminal justice reform bill implementing “justice reinvestment” policies to protect public safety, reduce victimization, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs.

On Feb. 28, 2013, nearly 200 people of faith convened at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Salem for Interfaith Advocacy Day with the theme, “Calling Oregon to Compassion in Action: United faiths, confronting poverty.” After morning training sessions, participants spent the afternoon meeting with their legislators.

Participants at the 2013 Interfaith Advocacy Day marched to the Capitol Building in Salem to challenge the Oregon Legislature to support people and communities living in poverty.
In 2013, nearly 900 volunteers helped EMO serve the needs of over 57,000 Oregonians.

**Affordable Housing**
EMO has a long history of developing and advocating for affordable housing and is dedicated to filling the housing needs of those less fortunate.

- **The Patton Home**—a 127-year old, single-room occupancy residence—provided affordable housing for more than 63 individuals who were in recovery from substance abuse, transitioning from homelessness, or striving to maintain their personal independence; throughout the year, residents enjoyed events including a BBQ provided by Holy Family Catholic Church, a trip to Seaside, and Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.
- **Second Home**—a community response to the housing needs of unaccompanied, homeless youth while they attend Beaverton high schools—facilitated housing arrangements last year for 10 students with volunteer host families; launched an emergency housing program for students in immediate need of shelter.

**Hunger, Nutrition & Social Services**
Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO’s basic human needs programs.

- In 2013, **Food Services/Delizioso Catering** prepared 23,758 nutritious meals—many prepared with fresh produce grown in the Patton Home garden—for clients at the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express and residents at the Patton Home.
- Last year, **HIV Services** offered assistance for 255 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS who made 8,261 visits to the Day Center for meals, counseling, computers, phones, laundry, clothing and showers. Over 20,500 client meals were delivered by the Daily Bread Express to home-bound individuals living with HIV/AIDS.
- **The Northeast Emergency Food Program** gathered and distributed nearly 720,000 pounds of nutritionally-balanced food (a 20 percent increase from the previous year) to over 11,000 people in critical need during 2013.

**Refugee & Immigration Ministries**
Our Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants.

- **Russian Oregon Social Services** gave direct assistance to 3,258 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants in 2013. Services included domestic violence services, breast and cervical health education, mental health counseling, ESL, self-sufficiency and computer classes, citizenship training, legal and tax assistance, dental care and more.
- Last year, **Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)** assisted 397 refugees, including 73 individuals through the Lautenberg Amendment, which facilitates the resettlement of Jews, Christians, Baha’is and other religious minorities fleeing Iran and the former Soviet Union.
- In 2013, **SOAR Immigration Legal Services** provided low-cost immigration representation to more than 2,000 immigrants and refugees; expanded its state-wide work by hosting eight Citizenship Days and offering Citizenship Preparation classes across the state; held World Refugee Day gallery event, “New Faces of America,” featuring photos of SOAR Legal clients.

EMO makes every effort to ensure accuracy. Please contact us at (503) 221-1054 if you notice an error.