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Into the Future: Serving together in faith

As Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2014, we did so with an eye to the future. EMO is a creative and committed organization that lives faithfully into the call to love one’s neighbor and build up the communities in which we live.

We were privileged to assist more than 30,000 individuals, including families with children—many of whom are working and yet struggle to make ends meet. Through our community ministries, we provide direct services to refugees and immigrants; people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and friends; and our neighbors who are in need of affordable housing, job supports and access to healthy food.

And this service does not end with ministries of compassion but includes advocating for public policies and priorities that can enhance life’s possibilities. Last fall, for example, we distributed more than 8,000 copies of EMO’s *Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures*—an educational resource to help voters consider the ballot measures from a faith-based and moral/ethical framework. We also held numerous ballot measure forums across the state.

Our education and dialogue opportunities last year included the 2014 *Collins Lecture* by Karen Armstrong, who spoke on “The Transformative Power of Compassion” to a sold-out audience at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. At the fifth annual *Earth Care Summit* at First Christian Church in Portland, hundreds of representatives from a wide range of faith communities came to learn and engage in discussions around “Breath of Life: The Earth’s Atmosphere.”

As these community ministries, advocacy and educational programs make crystal clear, standing and serving together in fellowship and community are at the heart of the ecumenical movement and the center of our mission. As the Psalmist reminds us, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” Central to this vision is the commitment to learn from one another, listen to each other’s stories, restore broken relationships, and foster unity that transcends our parochial institutions and self-interests.

This report is just a brief snapshot of the diversity of the EMO community and how we serve together in faith. We offer our thanks for your participation in our work for the common good. And, if you are not yet involved in some aspect of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, please join us. The movement needs you!

Faithfully,

The Rev. Susan M. Kintner
President

Janet Musgrove Elfers
Interim Executive Director

Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue & Peacemaking

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! PSALM 133:1

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. Our annual *Collins Lecture* provides a forum for clergy and laity to explore contemporary issues related to religion and social ethics.

- Celebrated EMO’s 40th anniversary and honored ecumenical and community leadership in Oregon with our *Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner*, which was attended by nearly 400 guests and raised over \$62,000 for EMO’s ministries.
- Convened a consultation at Beaver Creek United Church of Christ, bringing together regional and national denominational representatives concerned about the future of rural churches and parishes.
- Partnered with the Interfaith Action Network of Washington County and Interfaith Council of Greater Portland for a unique open space workshop, “Strengthening Our Region through Interfaith Action: What can we do together that we cannot do by ourselves?” Participants explored diverse points of view and new directions for interfaith relations and action.



Photo credit: Jenny Pratt

Our 2014 education and dialogue opportunities included the **Collins Lecture** featuring **Karen Armstrong**. The comparative religion scholar spoke on “The Transformative Power of Compassion” to a sold-out audience at Portland’s Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on March 6.

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 justice and the care and renewal of the earth. We foster an awareness that care for creation is integral to a life of faith.



Photo credit: Maribel Gomez

Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership expanded the Rockwood Food Opportunity Project by launching a farmers market accepting WIC and SNAP and assisting corner stores in providing healthy produce for their customers.

■ **Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC)** presented our fifth annual *Earth Care Summit*, “Breath of Life: Earth’s Atmosphere,” with over 300 people in attendance from more than 30 congregations around the state; our Pollinator Sanctuary Project held an educational event and awarded five mini-grants, funded by the Gilhousen Family Foundation, to congregations creating pollinator sanctuaries.

■ **Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership (IFFP)** offered cooking and gardening classes at the Sanctuary Community Garden including “Seed to Supper,” which taught neighbors how to garden on a budget; organized a forum on GMOs at Warner Pacific College.

■ **Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL)** recruited faith leaders to speak at the *People’s Climate March*, where over 5,000 people and 130 organizations came together for the largest ever climate march in Oregon.

Thank you to the 1,607 donors and foundations (listed on these pages) who gave \$914,221 to EMO during 2014.

Congregations & Religious Organizations

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland
Atkinson Memorial Unitarian Church, Oregon City
Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Portland
Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ, Beaverton
Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ, White Salmon, Wash.
Catholic Charities
Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, Portland
Central Lutheran Church, Portland
Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene
Church World Service
Clackamas United Church of Christ, Milwaukie
Community of Christ, Portland
Congregation Beth Israel, Portland
Congregational Church of Lincoln City
East County Church of Christ, Gresham
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Eugene
First Baptist Church, McMinnville
First Christian Church, Albany
First Christian Church, Eugene
First Christian Church, Lebanon
First Christian Church, Medford
First Christian Church, Portland
First Christian Church, Silverton
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eugene
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Salem
First Presbyterian Church, Bandon
First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg
First Unitarian Church, Portland
First United Methodist Church, Corvallis
First United Methodist Church, Portland
First United Methodist Church, Salem
Forest Grove United Church of Christ
Fremont United Methodist Church, Portland
Gorge Ecumenical Ministries
Hillsdale Community United Church of Christ, Portland
Hood River Valley Christian Church
Iconographic Arts Institute
Interfaith Spiritual Center
Islamic Society of Greater Portland
Keizer Christian Church
Lake Oswego United Church of Christ
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Portland
MacDonald Center
Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland
Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton
Muslim Educational Trust
Open Door Baptist Church, Troutdale
Oregon Center for Christian Voices
Oregon Episcopal School
Peace Church of the Brethren, Portland
P’nai Or of Portland
Portland Mennonite Church
Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, Portland
Prince of Peace Fellowship, Portland
Providence Saint Vincent Medical Center
Riverside Community Church, Hood River
Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Portland
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem
St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Eugene
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland
Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland
Smyrna United Church of Christ, Canby
SnowCap Community Charities
Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton
Springfield/Eugene Habitat for Humanity
Tigard United Methodist Church

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland
Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland
Vancouver First Christian Church
Vermont Hills United Methodist Church, Portland
West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Portland
Westminster Mainsail Mariners
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland
Westside Community Church, Aloha
Williamette West Habitat for Humanity
Woodland Park Baptist Church, Portland
Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Portland
Zen Community of Oregon

Denominations

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon and Southwest Idaho
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United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries
United Methodist Church, Oregon—Idaho Annual Conference
Williamette Quarterly Meeting of the Society of Friends

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Central Drug Company
Classic Foods
Crescent Systems
Cully Community Market
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Detour Cafe
Drive Oregon
Fifth/Alder Associates, LP
Garden Fever!
Ginger Salon
Girl Scouts, Troop 45108
Gracie’s Restaurant
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International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 8
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Santa Fe Taqueria
Starkey’s Restaurant and Bar
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Boeing Employees Community Fund, Portland
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The Collins Foundation
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Public Policy Advocacy

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. ISAIAH 1:17

EMO’s public witness and advocacy efforts 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.

- During the 2014 Legislative “Short” Session, EMO participated in advocacy days and hearings in support of affordable housing, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and gun safety legislation.
- Leading up to the 2014 General Election, EMO distributed more than 8,000 copies of our *Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures* and presented 15 ballot measure forums across the state including Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Hood River, Bend and Portland.
- With the passage of public safety reforms (HB 3194) in the 2013 Legislative Session, criminal justice reform was, and continues to be, a high priority for EMO. We organized prison visits and meetings with the Oregon Department of Corrections to explore how the faith community can foster restorative justice in our criminal justice system.



Photo credit: Jan Eifers

EMO cosponsored “The wHOLE,” a pilot for a Web-based series filmed at Wapato jail in Portland by Think Ten Media Group. The film explores criminal justice practices in America, particularly the harsh reality of solitary confinement.

Last year, nearly 600 volunteers helped EMO serve the needs of over 30,000 Oregonians.

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Joyce Zerwekh
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Rhonda Ziegler
Sylvia A. Zingesser
Jessie Zlatnik
Alesia Zorn

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

Community Ministry

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ... Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 JOHN 3:17-18

Our Community Ministry programs serve communities in crisis and people in need. Our diverse programs provide nutritious meals, affordable housing, social support, and integrated refugee and immigration services. EMO's ministries help people put their faith into action by addressing human needs in their communities throughout the state.

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 128-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; added a resident services coordinator to help residents obtain needed services.
- **Second Home**—a community response to the housing needs of unaccompanied, homeless youth while they attend high school—facilitated housing arrangements last year for 12 students with volunteer host families, providing 70 months of housing and over 6,000 meals.



Photo credit: Kiriana Woolf

Second Home received the 2014 Beaverton Human Rights Award—with staff, students and home providers in attendance for the award presentation.



Photo credit: Jenny Pratt

EMO's Food Services prepares healthy meals using fresh ingredients for clients of our HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express and residents of the Patton Home.

Hunger, Nutrition & Social Services

Serving communities in crisis and people in need is central to EMO's basic human needs programs.

- **Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA)** was initiated last year to heal both individuals and communities after violent crime; following a restorative justice model, CoSA works along with the professional treatment and supervision that sex offenders are provided, offering practice in pro-social relationship building.
- In 2014, **Food Services/Delizioso Catering** prepared 22,344 nutritious, home-style meals for over 770 people in need.
- Last year, **HIV Services** offered assistance for 297 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS who made 8,504 visits to the Day Center for meals, counseling, peer support, clothing, showers and more; over 12,000 meals and nutritional supplements were delivered by the Daily Bread Express to home-bound individuals.
- The **Northeast Emergency Food Program** gathered and distributed more than 700,000 pounds of nutritionally-balanced food and 30,000 items of clothing to over 11,000 people in critical need during 2014; provided leadership and job training for 20 individuals through our Service Learner Initiative.

Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Our ministries offer comprehensive and compassionate services to thousands of refugees and immigrants.

- **Russian Oregon Social Services** gave direct assistance to 3,619 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants in 2014, including 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)** provided resettlement services for 382 refugees—the majority of whom came from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, Cuba, the former Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq and Somalia—and helped them adjust to a new life in the Portland metro area; implemented the Mental Health Promotion Program.
- In 2014, **SOAR Immigration Legal Services** provided low-cost immigration representation to more than 2,000 immigrants and refugees in application processes.



Photo credit: Pamela Hubbs

SOAR Immigration Legal Services expanded its statewide work by offering eight Citizenship Days, a DACA Renewal workshop and 20 Citizenship Preparation classes across the state.