

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Forum explores ethical issues of climate equity**

On May 14, the *Climate Ethics and Equity Forum* will engage people of faith, community members, ethicists, students, livability advocates, indigenous voices and green job leaders in a discussion on the most pressing ethical issues of climate change and equity locally and globally. The forum will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, Ore. Goals of the gathering are to deepen ethical thinking on climate change, to build a platform for action, and strengthen relationships among those concerned with environmental integrity, human health, job creation and social justice.

The keynote speaker is Kathleen Dean Moore, author of *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril* and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and University Writer Laureate at Oregon State University, where she teaches environmental ethics and moral reasoning. A panel on regional equity and global equity issues follows the keynote. Panelists include Ben Duncan, chair of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon; Chuck Hudson, governmental affairs director for Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission; Nuin Tara Key, climate justice researcher and Metro planner; Jeanne Atkins, state director for Senator Jeff Merkely; and Sr. Pat Nagle, a World Council of Churches delegate to several United Nations' Climate Conferences.

The event will conclude with breakout action-oriented breakout sessions that will include the following topics: Green Jobs and A Vibrant Economy; Indigenous Rights; Profits, Debt and Climate; Transportation Access and Climate; Renewable Energy Policies and Justice; Small Business, Big Business and the Chamber; and Biodiversity.

The forum is free, but donations to match Oregon Interfaith Power & Light's (OIPL) challenge grant are welcome. Lunch may be ordered for \$10 per person (Hot Lips Vegetarian Pizza). To register securely online, go to [www.emoregon.org/emo\\_events.php](http://www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php). For more information or to register by phone, call (503) 221-1054.

The forum is sponsored by OIPL (a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon), First United Methodist Church, and the University of Oregon's Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. The forum is endorsed by the Oregon Area Jewish Committee, Climate Solutions; Jubilee Oregon; Umpqua Bank; and OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project 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 Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*