

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Rep. Dave Hunt with religious education award

The Honorable Dave Hunt, Oregon State Representative, will receive the Louise Hunderup Religious Education Award on May 12, 2011, at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO's) Annual Community Awards and Celebration Dinner. Named for the former director of Christian Education for the Greater Portland Council of Churches, the Louise Hunderup Award is being presented to Hunt for his ongoing dedication to promoting religious liberty and understanding, and for his continuing support for legislation to reduce hunger, homelessness and lack of access to health care in Oregon.

Hunt is serving his fifth term in the Oregon House of Representatives, representing the Clackamas County communities of Gladstone, Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, Johnson City and North Clackamas. As House Majority Leader in 2007, Hunt was the chief House sponsor of SB 786, the Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act, which strengthened religious accommodation standards so that workers throughout Oregon could more fully exercise their right to wear religious dress in the workplace and to observe religious holidays of their faith. In 2009, Hunt personally worked with a broad coalition of religious organizations representing many faiths to achieve passage of HB 3686, which further expanded religious freedom by eliminating a long-standing statewide prohibition on the wearing of religious garb by public school employees.

Hunt has also been a strong supporter of successful legislation that expanded health care access for all Oregon children and for low-income adults (HB 2116), and of legislation to reduce hunger and homelessness in Oregon. He played a key role in the 2009 passage of HB 2436, which created a new source of stable funding for programs to reduce homelessness and increase and preserve affordable housing. He also sponsored successful legislation to reduce hunger by providing low-income children and seniors access to farmers markets and summer lunches.

Hunt also served as the youngest-ever president of American Baptist Churches USA, from 2002-2003, capping nearly a dozen years of service on the General Board of ABC-USA.

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ 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

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$60 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$600. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon 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.