

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon honors Northwest Portland Ministries with service award

Northwest Portland Ministries (NWPM) will be honored with an “Ecumenical Service Award” on May 12, 2011, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of the NWPM’s special achievements in hope inspiring, life enhancing, interfaith community ministry in Oregon.

Northwest Portland Ministries was founded in 1980 by a group of lay people from churches and synagogues in northwest Portland as a way of providing assistance to neighborhood residents through coordinated volunteer efforts. Over 30 years later, the organization continues to inspire volunteers from congregations and the larger community to help neighbors live with dignity and purpose by providing food, transportation, recreation and helping hands. Some of NWPM’s programs include transportation to provide 1,000 safe and reliable door-to-door rides per month for elders and persons with disabilities in cooperation with RideConnection, “Adopt-a-Highrise” to offer socialization and other services to residents of low-income apartment buildings, and “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” to give one-on-one assistance—a vital and much-needed way to provide support and connection to neighbors in need.

Northwest Portland Ministries’ food programs include a partnership with Loaves & Fishes and First Immanuel Lutheran Church to operate a weekday Senior Meal Site that serves hot lunches to 50 or more elders, and the Emergency Food Pantry that serves 460 people each month, with an additional 95 people who receive fresh produce monthly. In 2008, NWPM established a “Food for Kids Backpack” program to keep low-income school children from going hungry over the weekend during the school year. This program feeds 160 each weekend.

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.

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

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.