

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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EMO statement on Clackamas Town Center shooting

In the midst of the season of hope and joy, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon laments the tragedy of violence resulting in death, wounding and terror at Clackamas Town Center yesterday.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon calls upon all houses of worship to pray for the victims' families and loved ones, and for the perpetrator's family who are suffering now. We give thanks for the police, emergency professionals, and mall staff for their courage and quick response, making clear that we will not be paralyzed by fear in the face of sudden violence. We also acknowledge the importance of pastoral care and mental health services for all those impacted by this tragedy, and we give thanks for everyone who is part of the healing process.

Causes of these tragedies can be complex, including lack of resources to recognize and treat mental illness, easy availability of military-grade weapons, and the culture of violence permeating our society. At this time in our society, we must be willing to tackle these hard issues together in order to foster healing and help prevent future tragedies.

Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes

President of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors

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