

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

Interchurch Center, Suite B ■ 0245 SW Bancroft Street ■ Portland, Oregon 97239
phone (503) 221-1054 ■ *fax* (503) 223-7007 ■ *Web site* www.emoregon.org

Nov. 25, 2014

Contact: David Leslie, EMO executive director
(503) 221-1054, dleslie@emoregon.org

EMO responds to grand jury decision in Ferguson

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) stands in prayerful solidarity with the people of Ferguson, Mo., in the wake of yesterday's grand jury decision. We pray in this time of serious tension for the city of Ferguson and its citizens, law enforcement officials, justice-seekers, and others to respond in a nonviolent manner.

It is our hope that this tragedy will be a transformative moment, deepening our awareness of the racial divides that exist in our communities. As Michael Brown's father stated, "I do not want my son's death to be in vain. I want it to lead to incredible change, positive change, change that makes the St. Louis region better for everyone."

We recall the words in Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

To work for both justice and peace requires a commitment to building the "beloved community" by advocacy and action, deepening racial awareness by engaging in sacred conversation, and dismantling the systems that perpetuate racism and contribute to the unnecessary deaths of people like Michael Brown and so many other young people in this country. May we dedicate ourselves to these ends.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, 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.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ 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)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches