

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EMO honors E.D. Mondainé as “Ecumenist of the Year”**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Apostle E.D. Mondainé, new president of the NAACP and Senior Pastor of Celebration Tabernacle, as “Ecumenist of the Year” on May 16, 2018, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*.

Mondainé has dedicated his life to restoring the church as a community resource and reviving communities from the inside out. His infectious energy and open-hearted generosity are hallmarks of the blessings he bestows to all in his care.

In addition to serving as a pastor, he is a philanthropist, activist, entrepreneur, author, public speaker, civic leader, musician, and the current president of the Portland chapter of the NAACP. As a community leader, he advocates for black-owned businesses in the face of gentrification, and he brings together people of diverse faiths to speak out against violence and hate. He is an active member of the Beloved Community, an interfaith coalition formed to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized and voiceless in our communities.

Celebration Tabernacle—a nondenominational organization founded by Mondainé in 1988—has been a social and spiritual force within both the Christian and secular communities. More than that, it’s become a model for church-based community involvement, with programs that emphasize both leadership and entrepreneurship. To create a spirited gathering place for the community and much-needed employment opportunities, Mondainé opened a popular soul-food and Cajun-inspired restaurant, Po’shines Café de la Soul, next door to his church—along with a six-week culinary school that offers scholarships to students and employment at Po’shines when they graduate.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor

extraordinary individuals and organizations such as E.D. Mondainé whose courage, moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making our community a better place.

This year, the event will be held on May 16 at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway, Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, a live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at [emoregon.org](http://emoregon.org), are \$100 per person (festival seating) or \$2,000 per table of 10 (includes Bronze Sponsorship and reserved seating). For more information, contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or [csbigg@emoregon.org](mailto:csbigg@emoregon.org).

*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, earth ministry, and public policy advocacy.*