

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO awards Thomas Aschenbrener for commitment to equity and social justice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will present Thomas Aschenbrener with the “Rodney Page Award for Equity and Social Justice” on May 16, 2018, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*.

Throughout a distinguished career, Aschenbrener has demonstrated a commitment to equity and social justice. In 2012, he retired as founding president of the Northwest Health Foundation as the capstone of a 40-plus-year career in health philanthropy. At the foundation, Aschenbrener created an organization committed to equity and social justice. Nowhere is that more obvious than in the foundation’s emphasis on the social determinants of health—including food security, adequate housing, a strong educational system and affordable transportation. Under Aschenbrener’s management, Northwest Health Foundation has long been considered a leader, locally and nationally, in pursuing advocacy as an effective means to achieve social change. Among the many legislative efforts the foundation has led, participated in, or funded are those involving smoke-free workplaces, health care transformation, the removal of soda machines from Oregon schools, menu labeling, cultural competency in health care, nurse faculty loan alleviation, and the establishment of dental pilot projects.

Aschenbrener continues his support for nonprofits that advance community justice, equity, inclusion and diversity as an executive coach for nonprofit leaders. He regularly mentors young professionals in their career growth, empowering young leaders and building awareness about the importance of health and social justice. He serves on the board of Outside In in Portland and is on the advisory committee for the dean of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at OSU. He also is a founding board member of EngAged Oregon, a program for bringing arts education to seniors.

Although raised Catholic, Aschenbrener later found his home in the Episcopal community when he moved to Portland in 1983. He serves on the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

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 Thomas Aschenbrener, 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, 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.

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.