August 29, 2010

To the Editor:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) joins the National Council of Churches and Oregonian editorial writers and columnists to express our concern at the tenor of discourse in the past weeks around the building of the Cordoba Community Center and Mosque several blocks from Ground Zero in New York.

We do not believe that the building of this religious center is in any way intended to be disrespectful to those who died at the World Trade Center. On the contrary, opening our hearts and minds to the embrace of religious diversity and freedom of worship is a direct challenge to the intolerance and hatred that motivated the violence of 9/11.

We ask all Oregonians to promote respect and tolerance, and to speak out against extremist ideas in every community, working alongside our Muslim neighbors to live out the commandment to love our neighbor, and to promote peace.

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