

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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Interfaith community to hold vigil for peace in Egypt and the Middle East

In response to the crisis in Egypt, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)—in partnership with Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faith leaders and other interfaith and ecumenical organizations—is organizing an “Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace in Egypt and the Middle East.” The vigil will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., and is hosted by Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall at 1535 NE 17th Ave., Portland.

The vigil provides an opportunity for the local faith community to join together to pray for peace in Egypt and the Middle East during this time of uncertainty and show mutual support for our neighbors and friends in the Portland area who are impacted by the current political situation in that region. The vigil will include music by Al Andalus Ensemble, prayers for peace, meditation and interfaith reflections.

“The vigil provides an important opportunity to recognize and lift up in prayer how the events in Egypt impact us locally,” said David Leslie, EMO executive director. “Through prayer, we provide the place for broad community support and our collective hope for peace that can help sustain the spirit during these uncertain times.”

Faith leaders participating in the vigil include: the Rev. Esme Culver, associate rector, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church; David Leslie, executive director, EMO; Dr. Nohad Toulan, dean emeritus, College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University; Fr. Mekhail S. Hanna, St. Antonious Coptic Orthodox Church; Mary Jo Tully, chancellor, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland; and Rabbi Daniel Isaak, Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—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.