Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, along with the entire nation, grieves the tragic loss of all those who were wounded or lost their lives at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, yesterday. Our prayers are offered to the families, friends and colleagues of all those who died and were impacted by this horrific event, knowing that the grief and loss will continue in the days ahead.

As an ecumenical Christian organization, we join with the faithful of every religion who abhor this kind of senseless violence. It is our hope that all will understand that this terrible act was committed by an individual, and will not be used as an excuse for prejudice or acts of violence against any religious or ethnic group. It is in these times of collective grief and trauma that we are reminded of our connections to one another, and we this lift up today.

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.