

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Earth Day workshop helps congregations go green: Community Presbyterian Church invites other congregations into the rewarding process of building green**

The reason Community Presbyterian Church in Redmond is so excited to host Oregon Interfaith Power & Light's (OIPL) Green Building workshop is that the Redmond congregation is exploring green options for a potential building and remodeling project. "As people of faith, it is important to consider how we can be better stewards of creation," says Pastor Anderson of the church. "This workshop will help our church and other congregations in Central Oregon to better understand the opportunities available to be faithful in the ways we use God's gifts."

"Green Building and Renovations for Congregations" will be offered on **Tuesday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond.** Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. This workshop is sponsored by OIPL, a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), and co-sponsored by the Energy Trust of Oregon and Oregon Department of Energy.

Architect Peter Baer of Pinnacle Architecture, Inc. in Bend will explore options integrating energy efficient and green design into new religious buildings and renovations, using Community Presbyterian as an example. Rabbi Jay Shupack of the Jewish Community of Central Oregon will share about his synagogue's solar project—one of the first on a religious building in Oregon.

Sr. Pat Nagle, IHM, of Earth Home Ministries and co-chair of OIPL, will tell the story of her order's motherhouse in Michigan and the in-depth process of a green remodel rooted in the order's values and reinterpretation. Doug Boleyn, P.E., owner of Cascade Solar Consulting and Energy Consultant for OIPL, will provide a framework for energy efficient building.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light has helped many congregations retrofit their buildings to be more energy efficient and improve their daily energy conservation practices. Recently, OIPL has increasingly focused on encouraging religious communities to build using methods that translate into less need for energy in the first place.

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#### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren  
Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light encourages congregations to send a team—including trustees, environmental committee members, facility managers and clergy—to attend together so they can follow-up. Green building works best when there is collaboration and input from different stakeholders in the congregation. Topics will include an overview of energy-efficient building; why energy is a spiritual issue; integrated design; case studies; getting the results you want—how to work with contractors and architects; OIPL programs and resources; generating energy on-site; financing and rebate opportunities available to congregations through Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon; and integrating energy efficiency with aesthetic and spiritual concerns.

Also presenting will be **Jenny Holmes**, EMO's Environmental Ministries director; Rebekah Skelly, Energy Trust of Oregon; and Joe Colello, the Oregon Department of Energy.

Registration is \$30, including lunch. Discounts are available to large groups from the same congregation. To register for the workshop, please call (503) 221-1054 or e-mail [emo@emoregon.org](mailto:emo@emoregon.org). A complete brochure is available at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org). A free reception with OIPL staff will be held before from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. EMO 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.*