

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Everyone Eats!:* Community organizers and researchers present results of north/northeast Portland food assessment**

Do low-income families have access to fresh, locally grown food? What can be done to increase this access in north and northeast Portland? After a year of collaborative, grassroots work, organizers of a local food assessment will present their discoveries on Thursday, October 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Community Center, 806 NE Alberta, and discuss the implications for local policy and our community.

All are invited to learn about the research, conducted under the leadership of LINKS AmeriCorps Volunteers Jocelyn Furbush and Sabrina Kosok, and a team of community residents. The food assessment seeks ways that closer collaboration, direct marketing alliances and a commitment to "buy local" can help resolve persistent problems. The food assessment was coordinated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) as part of its Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP), which links farmers and congregations in a creative partnership that assists low-income families.

Recently, a number of low-income residents of north and northeast Portland have been displaced by gentrification. As Portland's interest in locally-grown food increases, the food assessment attempts to focus on those who often struggle to get any kind of food on their family's table—namely, people with low incomes. As one survey respondent noted, "Food is the cornerstone of life. It's about being productive and effective. Everything else is moot if you don't take care of that."

The event is open to the public. A light, locally-grown dinner will be served. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214, or e-mail inec@emoregon.org. An executive summary and full draft assessment report will be posted online at www.emoregon.org/food_farms.php before the event. The report will be shared with local, state and national policy-makers and citizen groups, such as the Food Access Subcommittee of the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council, to inform food policy decisions.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Environmental Ministries connects, informs, and empowers individuals and congregations to work for justice and the care and renewal of the earth. EMO is a statewide association of 16 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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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