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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon announces ballot measure recommendations**

**The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) board of directors voted to support Measure 102** to allow municipal bond revenue to fund privately owned affordable housing. As people of faith, we seek to promote human dignity and, as our Social Principles state, to create a government and social order that is “responsive to human needs and aspirations.” Measure 102 will provide local governments with another tool to address Oregon’s housing crisis in a fiscally sound manner. For Portland metro area voters, the EMO board also recommends a “YES” vote on housing bond measure Metro 26-199.

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon recommends a “NO” vote on Measure 103** to ban taxes on “groceries.” As members of faith communities across Oregon, we see the daily burden that low-income families and individuals face across our state. The grocery industry is using that concern to appeal to voters with the false premise that politicians are seeking a tax on groceries. There have been no such proposals in the Oregon Legislature; instead there has been consideration of proposals to increase the corporate share of tax revenue in the state. Currently, Oregon ranks as one of the very lowest in total state and local business tax revenue. EMO will continue to work to ensure food and personal necessities are affordable, but exempting industry segments from any prospect of tax reform will only make it more difficult to solve the problems of individuals in need.

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon recommends a “NO” vote on Measure 104** to define raising revenue for three-fifths vote requirement. If passed, over time Measure 104 will reduce revenue for schools, health care and services needed by the vulnerable. It will protect those who have been able or will be able to secure tax breaks, which have historically benefited wealthier Oregonians and large corporations. This threatens to expand the wealth gap, while making it harder to fund the priorities of the middle class and lowest-income earners.

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon urges a “NO” vote Measure 105** to repeal Oregon’s sanctuary law. How we treat the marginalized in our society speaks volumes about our commitment to the Great Commandment “to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.” We stand with all of our neighbors, including immigrants without documentation; they are our friends, coworkers and family members. Measure 105

#### **MEMBER DENOMINATIONS**

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ 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 ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

would throw out a 30-year-old state law passed with near-unanimous Republican and Democratic support. Our “sanctuary” law is based on a profound faith tradition of dignity and fairness. It protects Oregonians from racial profiling and prevents local police personnel, funds, equipment and facilities from being used to pursue and detain people suspected only of violating federal immigration law. Preserving this law means protecting Oregon values and priorities.

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon encourages discussion on Measure 106** to ban public funds for abortions. Measure 106 is, in the most direct sense, about whether public funds should be spent on abortions. However, the EMO board of directors is clear in its belief that this measure is ultimately about the morality and justness of abortion itself. As an organization, EMO believes our most valuable contribution to the discussion around Measure 106 is to build a pathway for understanding and empathy between people of faith with opposing views on abortion. EMO extends an invitation to delve deeply into the sincerely-held, faith-based values that lead people of faith to support or oppose the public funding of abortion. In our *2018 Voters’ Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures*, EMO references the measure’s focus on taxpayer funding for abortion, but largely focuses on the shared values and beliefs that connect those inclined to support and to oppose this measure.

Recognizing the need to speak out on these important measures, EMO has produced the [2018 Voters’ Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures](#), with a full listing of recommendations for clergy and lay people on the five statewide measures. Copies of the EMO Voters’ Guide have been sent to faith communities across the state; the [Voters’ Guide](#) and [Statement of Social Principles](#) are also available online at [emoregon.org/advocacy-action](http://emoregon.org/advocacy-action).

Britt Conroy, EMO Public Policy director, will make presentations this fall at congregations on EMO’s ballot measure recommendations. If you would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Mr. Conroy at [bconroy@emoregon.org](mailto:bconroy@emoregon.org) or (503) 221-1054, ext. 207.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland abstained from EMO’s deliberations regarding the November ballot measures. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy.*

*Please note the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.*