

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 1, 2022

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon hires new president, Frank So

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Board of Directors is excited to announce the selection of a new president to lead the organization, Frank So. Mr. So will be the fifth president/executive director of EMO since the organization was established nearly 50 years ago. He is preceded by The Rev. Richard Hughes, The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, David Leslie and most recently Jan Musgrove Elfers.

Frank So will join the EMO staff on Dec. 14, after he fulfills his duties as vice-presidential associate at the White House. In this role, he has traveled with Vice President Harris, advising her office on trips outside the continental United States. He previously worked for President Obama as a presidential associate, where he traveled in advance of the president to help ensure effective state functions on the ground.

Throughout his career, Mr. So has specialized in strategy, policy, and coordinating various agencies as they address challenges related to conflict and human migration. As a child of immigrants, working with refugee and immigrant populations has been one of his lifelong passions, and he is eager to apply his experience to EMO’s refugee and immigration work.

For over a decade, Mr. So served as a U.S. diplomat in nine countries facing conflict in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Northern and East Africa. His most recent positions were senior mission advisor with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Columbia and senior human rights advisor for USAID in Honduras.

Prior to working with the U.S. government, Mr. So served with the United Nations in the Darfur region of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan to address the needs of vulnerable populations. His last post with the U.N. was as the Darfur officer in charge for the International Organization of Migration.

“I’m excited to lead EMO with the same values I’ve carried my entire career,” said Mr. So. “I look forward to working with the Oregon faith community towards a more just and sustainable place for us all.”

Oregon is the place Mr. So has called home since grade school and the place where his parents immigrated—his mother from Peru and his father from Thailand. He is a lifelong Catholic and was educated in the Jesuit tradition. He holds a master’s degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and a bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Seattle University, where he served as the student body president.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy.