



# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

— OF OREGON —

## Letter to the Editor: In honor of Martin Luther King Day, EMO's past and current leaders reaffirm commitment to end all forms of hate and injustice in our community

Jan. 15, 2024

As we celebrate the remembrance of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we must be more committed than ever to end hate in our community. Dr. King's battle cannot be seen as one to fight racism alone but all forms of injustice and ignorance.

Almost a year ago, we wrote asking Oregonians to speak out on antisemitism. Today, we condemn hate in all its forms as the war in the Holy Land fuels anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We implore Oregonians to seek truth and not fall into the rhetoric that war between Israel and Hamas is about religious faiths when the basis of all our faiths calls us to value all life.

God is not in the bombs or the lines drawn on a map. If we believe that this regional conflict will end through violence, we are mistaken. Too many innocent lives have been taken and more continue to be taken in Gaza. In the words of Dr. King, "If we assume that life is worth living and that man has a right to survive, then we must find an alternative to war. ... No nation can claim victory in war."

We may feel anxiety, anger, sadness and other feelings because of the war; how we transform those feelings into action is what matters. We believe in an Oregon where respect, honesty and empathy allow us to cultivate a richer social fabric that comes from our diversity. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, EMO Executive Director Emeritus  
Jan Musgrove Elfers, former EMO Executive Director  
Frank J. So, current EMO Executive Director

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) 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. EMO remains committed to the humanity in every person and working towards a more inclusive and accepting world for everyone. EMO is the oldest and largest organization of its kind in the nation. We represent a network of 15 Christian denominations and over 80 faith communities who stand for justice and equality.*