



**ECUMENICAL  
MINISTRIES**  
— OF OREGON —

## **Media Release**

For Immediate Release

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## **OREGON INTERFAITH LEADERS SIGN STATEMENT OF UNITY**

At Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, we devote our time, energies and resources to bring our community together, especially during periods like a contentious election season. In that effort, interfaith members of the Common Table of Oregon drafted the following Statement of Unity, signed by over 100 Oregon interfaith leaders to date. ([View online.](#))

*To Our Community,*

*Oregon's faith communities stand for love, justice and harmony. We do not believe that any form of violence will solve the issues facing our community. We work together to foster understanding, combat hate in all its forms and promote love for all people.*

*As leaders in Oregon's faith communities, we commit ourselves to be peacemakers in this time of heightened violence and fear. Violence in the world is also in our communities within the United States, and many are feeling threatened—both physically and emotionally. We abhor the hatred and bias that leads to such violence. We oppose any false information that inflames hostilities.*

*Despite our differing political and religious views, we call on ALL people of conscience to stand against hatred, bigotry, and discord and to be the peacemakers that God calls us to be.*

*We encourage our fellow citizens to practice tolerance and to build bridges based on our common values of love, justice, harmony and mutual respect. We urge our civic and elected leaders to foster environments for dialogue and understanding, to overcome animosity and to promote peace.*

Frank J. So, Executive Director, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)

The Rev. Giuseppe Amato, Pastor, Parkrose Community United Church of Christ

James A. Anderson, Retired Pastor, Evangelical Covenant Church

Katharine EE Hunt, Church Women United of Lane County, Oregon

The Rev. Valerie Austin, Interim Minister, Beaver Creek United Church of Christ

Sahar Bassyouni, Muslim Educational Trust

The Rt. Rev. Patrick (Pat) Bell, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman, Presbytery of the Cascades  
The Rev. Linda Bergeon, American Baptist Transitional Pastor (Oregon)  
Dr. Melissa Bird, Lay Preacher, Corvallis  
Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, Resident Bishop, Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church  
Carl Britsch, President, Corvallis, Oregon Stake, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Oregon Synod  
Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, Congregation Beth Israel, Portland  
The Rev. Andrea Cano, Former Interim Executive Director, EMO  
Ben Chonachan, Pastor, Pearl Church, Portland  
The Rev. Cathy A. Clark, Rector, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, McMinnville  
The Rev. Coqui Conkey, Interim Minister, Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
The Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister, Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Kodo Nancy Conover, Priest, Zen Community of Oregon, Portland  
The Rev. Scott Dalgarno, Senior Pastor, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton  
Laurie Day, Director of Connectional Ministries, Oregon-Idaho Conference, The United Methodist Church  
Evelyn Delgado, Member of the Baha'is of Washington County North  
The Rev. Ben Devoid, Pastor, Medford United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Joanna Jew Dunn, Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Jan Elfers, Former Executive Director, EMO  
Peter Epp, Lead Pastor, Albany Mennonite Church  
The Rev. Richenda Fairhurst, Pastor, Ashland First United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Galen Gingerich, Lead Pastor, New Horizons Church, McMinnville  
Marilyn Grendele, Mission Chair, Sanctuary Chair, Cedar Hills United Church of Christ  
Jeff Hammarlund, Member, EMO Creation Justice Committee  
The Rev. Kimberly Hawkins, Senior Minister, Center for Spiritual Living, Rogue Valley  
The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr., Presiding Elder, Oregon/Washington & Alaska Districts, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; President, Albina Ministerial Alliance  
The Rev. Dr. J.W. Matt Hennessee, Pastor, Historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church  
Phyllis Hockley, Church Women of United of Lane County  
The Rev. Beverly R. Jackson, Pastor, Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Matthew Johnson, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville  
Jawad Khan, Muslim Educational Trust  
Holley Lantz, Member, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, Corvallis Interfaith Network  
The Rev. Lynne Smouse López, retired clergy of The United Church of Christ  
Annette Luthy, Chair, Gorge Ecumenical Ministries  
The Rev. Beth Mallon, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Tigard  
Charlotte Maloney, Church Women United of Lane County  
Monique Manley-Smith, Co-Chair of Respond to Racism, Bethel United Church of Christ, Beaverton  
The Rev. Margaret Marcuson, American Baptist, Portland  
The Rev. Dr. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of McMinnville  
James Matichuk, Pastor, Medford Congregational United Church of Christ  
The Rev. Dr. Randolph T. Miller, American Baptist Minister and Spiritual Director  
The Rev. Steve Mitchell, Pastor, Christ's Church: Methodist and Presbyterian United, Monmouth, and Falls City United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Jonathan Mitchell, First Presbyterian Church, Pendleton  
Mary Sharon Moore, President, Church Women United of Lane County  
The Rev. Anita Mortimer, Community of Christ Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center, and Member of the EMO Board of Directors  
Imam Muhummad Najieb, Muslim Community Center of Portland  
The Rev. Karen Nelson, Convener of Oregon-Idaho Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Barbara Nixon, United Methodist retired clergy, Albany  
Anne Ehrlich O'Brien, Church Women United of Lane County  
Barbara O'Hare, Member, EMO Board of Directors  
Poppy Olson, Member Baha'i' Faith, Corvallis Interfaith Group  
The Rev. Timothy L. Overton-Harris, Special Assistant to the Bishop, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church  
Allen & Geri Oyler, Communication Directors, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Greater Portland Area  
The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, EMO Executive Director Emeritus  
The Rev. R. Scott Painter, Rector, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church  
Douglas Parker, Corvallis Interfaith Network, Urantia Book member at large  
Erin Peters, Executive Director, Northwest Catholic Counseling Center  
The Rev. Peg Pfab, Westside Interfaith Neighbors (WIN)

The Rev. John Pitney, Bend United Methodist, Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, and Member of EMO's Creation Justice Committee

Imam Abdulah Polovina, Islamic Bosniaks Educational and Cultural Organization

The Rev. Cecil Charles Prescod, Minister of Faith Formation, Ainsworth United Church of Christ

Alice & Mark Rampton, Communication Directors, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Greater Eugene Area

The Rev. Jeremy Richards, University Chaplain, Linfield University

The Rev. Murray Richmond, Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church, Medford

The Rev. Heather Riggs, Pastor, Montavilla United Methodist Church

Mike Roth, Pastor, Pearl Church, Portland

The Revs. Allison and Jared Ruari, Co-Ministers, First Christian Church of Albany

Wajdi Said, Co-founder and President, Muslim Educational Trust

The Rev. Ryan J. Scott, Lead Pastor, Eugene First United Methodist Church

Peter Sergienko, Member of EMO's Creation Justice Committee and GreenFaith Fellow

The Rev. Stacy Shelton, Pastor, First Christian Church, Medford

Mary Slayton, Westside Interfaith Neighbors (WIN)

The Rev. Wayne Smith, Evangelical Covenant Church

Jane Snyder, Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends

Joseph Hoyt Snyder, Multnomah Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rod Stafford, Lead Pastor, Portland Mennonite Church

Rick Staggenborg, Social Justice Coordinator, Albany First Christian Church

Don Streeter, Priest and Pastor, Eugene Community of Christ

Jahed Sukhun, Muslim Educational Trust

The Rev. Dr. Troy Sybrant, Pastor, Murray Hills Christian Church

The Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, Minister, Church for Our Common Home

The Rev. Leo C. Tautfest, Retired, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Lynn W. Walker, Corvallis Meditation Circle of Self Realization Fellowship and Corvallis Interfaith Network

Mozafar Wanly, Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center Corvallis

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

The Rev. Dr. David L. Wheeler, Grant Park Church, Palmer Theological Seminary

Sean P. Williams, Children and Youth Minister, First Baptist Church of McMinnville

Jennifer J. Williams, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Linfield University

Nancy Winston, Co-Chair of Respond to Racism, Bethel United Church of Christ, Beaverton

Rabbi Joey Wolf, Havurah Shalom

Dr. Slayden Yarbrough, Retired, American Baptist Churches USA

The Rev. Ted Yuen, Lead Pastor, McMinnville Covenant Church

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