



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES — OF OREGON —

Media Release
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EMO Executive Director Frank So transitions to a new position at Oregon Humane

After four years as executive director of one of the nation's largest state ecumenical organizations, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), Frank So will be leaving to start the role of chief executive officer at Oregon Humane. So's last day will be Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Before coming to EMO, So worked at the White House in two administrations and served as a diplomat with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). During So's tenure, EMO acquired the Luther Memorial building that currently houses the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) and Daily Bread Express and will be the future home of the HIV Day center. Under So's leadership, EMO survived funding cuts to multiple of our direct service programs. So helped bring EMO's annual Collins Lecture outside of the Portland metro area for the first time and worked tirelessly to spread awareness of EMO's mission and impact across the state.

"Frank embodies EMO's mission to serve Oregon's most vulnerable people," EMO Board Chair Dr. Julie Dodge shares. "His vision for EMO has left a legacy that will be felt for years to come. However – and I think Frank would agree with this – his most enduring legacy is the strong team he leaves behind. As a board, we are already working on a plan for interim leadership and a new executive director." EMO's staff will continue to serve communities across Oregon through our six direct service programs, public policy, and creation justice advocacy, as well as the enduring ecumenical and interfaith relationships we have built during our fifty years of operation.

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, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.