

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO awards Norene Goplen “Ecumenist of the Year”

Norene Goplen, public policy director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Synod, will be named “Ecumenist of the Year” on May 25, 2010, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is proud to honor Goplen for her catalytic community leadership in a wide range of issues affecting the most vulnerable in our society, including hunger, homelessness and poverty, disaster relief, and challenges affecting small farmers and farm workers. A founding member of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger, Goplen is also a member of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, representing the faith community, and a board member of Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon. In response to the economic downturn in the early 1980s, Goplen and leaders from several northeast Portland churches created the Job Opportunity Bank, which provided job search skills, computer training for adults over 55 and several support groups. Goplen has also served as president of the Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, developing responses to disasters from the Willamette Valley Flood of 1996 to the Vernonia Flood in 2007. Currently, she serves on the EMO Public Policy Advocacy Committee and the Board of CASA, which provides farmworker housing.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$600. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—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.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ 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 ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches