

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EMO expresses condolences for victims of Sikh temple shooting and encourages national day of solidarity**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) extends our profound condolences to the victims of the shooting at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis., this past weekend. The terrible tragedy of the loss of family and friends is one we all share today. We stand with the Sikh community throughout the United States and the world in their courage and in their mourning, and we pray for all touched by this tragedy.

We call for the active cultivation of education and cooperation leading to mutual respect among all peoples, faiths, and cultural traditions, to foster a more peaceful society.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joins the Wisconsin Council of Churches and other faith communities across the country in calling for Sunday, Aug. 12, as a day in which all faiths will come together to pray for the victims, their families, and for the Sikh community.

We also join with members of the Damesh Darbar Sikh temple in Salem who have asked that Oregonians take this time to learn about the Sikh religion, and the Sikh mission of standing for peace and religious tolerance throughout the world. Informational resources about Sikhism are available on the EMO website, [www.emoregon.org](http://www.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**

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Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches