

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Interchurch Center, Suite B ■ 0245 SW Bancroft Street ■ Portland, Oregon 97239
phone (503) 221-1054 ■ *fax* (503) 223-7007 ■ *Web site* www.emoregon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Oct. 19, 2012

To the Editor:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon considers it our obligation to speak up about the deliberately inflammatory ads on Tri-Met (“Tri-Met can’t stop ‘jihad’ ad,” Oct 16) describing one side in the middle east as “civilized” and the other as “savage.” While we honor the principle of free speech, as people of faith we cannot remain silent about these ads.

The tone of these ads brings back sad echoes of the demonizing and dehumanizing rhetoric often used in historical conflicts, a rhetoric that all too often results in arousing hatred and violence against innocent people.

As Oregonians we believe this is harmful to our neighbors and does nothing to strengthen intercultural and intercommunity relations. We join with others in the community to request that Tri-Met pull these ads. If you see one of these ads, however, we ask you to remember the complexity of the issue, the humanity of all people under God, and the importance of seeing through stereotypes.

The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes,
Board President
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

David Leslie
Executive Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ 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)—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