

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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EMO statement condemning violence in Charlottesville

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) unequivocally condemns the hate speech and horrific acts of violence committed by white supremacists on Saturday, Aug. 12, in Charlottesville, VA. We are grateful for those who courageously served as a moral witness against the hateful actions of that day, including many people of faith. We also pray for the family and friends of those who died in the violence.

What happened in Charlottesville was evil, just as the horrendous hate crime that took place on Portland's public transportation only months ago was evil. It sears the soul and violates the values we hold as people of faith, as well as the highest ideals of Americans.

We know that we are all created in the image of God. We cry out for the human dignity, human rights and fundamental safety of all God's beloved children. Now is the time for action. We cannot be silent in a time when violence and fear of the other have been given permission to speak out and act out.

We call on our political and faith leaders to stand up and speak decisively against every act of hate and the ideology of white supremacy. We call on our community to listen to those in our midst who have suffered oppression and injustice, in order to better understand how we should respond; to denounce fear and instead build bridges across racial, ethnic and religious groups, so we may work together for peace, justice and compassion. We call on our families, faith communities and schools to nurture and teach love, not hate, to our children.

God is love and God calls us to love. Now is the time for deliberate, determined, nonviolent action in our homes, communities, cities and nation for the transformation of our society.

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, earth ministry and public policy advocacy.

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