

# 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](http://www.emoregon.org)

August 29, 2010

To the Editor:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) joins the National Council of Churches and *Oregonian* editorial writers and columnists to express our concern at the tenor of discourse in the past weeks around the building of the Cordoba Community Center and Mosque several blocks from Ground Zero in New York.

We do not believe that the building of this religious center is in any way intended to be disrespectful to those who died at the World Trade Center. On the contrary, opening our hearts and minds to the embrace of religious diversity and freedom of worship is a direct challenge to the intolerance and hatred that motivated the violence of 9/11.

We ask all Oregonians to promote respect and tolerance, and to speak out against extremist ideas in every community, working alongside our Muslim neighbors to live out the commandment to love our neighbor, and to promote peace.

David Leslie  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Executive Director  
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B  
Portland, OR 97239  
(503) 221-1054  
[dleslie@emoregon.org](mailto:dleslie@emoregon.org)

## 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