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For Immediate Release

Date: Oct. 23, 2007

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Caring for Creation: Workshops help congregations, households develop five-year plan for reducing carbon footprint

Individuals, congregations and businesses can learn how to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs at two workshops—one for congregations (9:30 a.m. to 12.p.m.) and one for households (1 to 4 p.m.)—on Saturday, Nov. 17. Sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL), the workshops will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 323 Catherine Street, Walla Walla, Wash.

These workshops will provide consumers with tools, including a five-year plan to dramatically reduce carbon footprints and know-how to increase energy efficiency and use renewable energy. “Scientists say we have less than 10 years to prevent the worst effects of global warming,” says Jenny Holmes, Environmental Ministries director for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). “We offer these workshops because—although major policy changes are needed—everyone can be a part of the solution of global warming and lead by example.”

The workshop “Save Your Congregation Energy and Money” will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12.p.m. Geared to the needs of congregations, the workshop will cover key principles of energy stewardship for congregations, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy costs, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. The workshop “Energy Stewardship” will be offered for individuals from 1 to 4 p.m. Topics will include top ideas to save energy costs for homes and businesses, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship.

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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

The keynote speaker for both workshops is Doug Boleyn, who has over 30 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency and is energy consultant for OIPL, board member of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon, president of Cascade Solar Consulting, LLC, and a member of the Energy Trust of Oregon Renewable Advisory Committee.

A project of the EMO, OIPL's mission is to assist congregations and their members to become better stewards by improving energy stewardship and investing in clean, renewable energy. OIPL offers opportunities for putting faith into action through wise electricity choices and energy conservation.

To register for the workshops, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 203. Pre-registration for each session is requested by Oct. 31, but registration will also be accepted at the door. Cost of registration is \$20 per workshop or \$35 for both workshops. Call (503) 221-1054 for discounts on groups from a single congregation. Youth are free. Scholarships are available. Lunch is provided at suggested donation of \$8. To download a complete brochure, go to 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.