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Largest-ever *Interfaith Advocacy Day* focuses on meeting basic needs for food, housing & health care

Three hundred people of faith crowded into the First Congregational Church, UCC of Salem bright and early on Monday, Feb. 5, for the largest turnout ever for the biennial *Interfaith Advocacy Day*. The event was cosponsored by nearly 50 faith-based organizations including Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The theme of this year's event was "Family and Community Stability: A Value for All Oregonians." The focus was on meeting basic needs of families and low-income individuals.

Those in attendance were welcomed to Salem by David Leslie, executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The invocation was led by the pastor of First Congregational Church of

Salem, the Rev. Gail McDougle, and by Shahriar Ahmed of the Bilal Mosque Association, in Beaverton. A keynote faith address was given by Rabbi Michael Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel.

Participants came from communities throughout Oregon—for some, it was their first time advocating in the Oregon Legislature. Bob Horenstein, the community relations director with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and Lisa Wenzlick, chair of the Hunger Advocacy Group at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Portland, led advocacy skills training sessions for newcomers and veterans alike.

Continued on page 6



Photo credit: Tiana Graff

On Feb. 5, nearly 300 *Interfaith Advocacy Day* participants marched to the State Capitol to meet with their legislators.

EMO's Annual Celebration honors ecumenists and community leaders

Every year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) friends and supporters gather from around the state to celebrate and honor ecumenical partners who have accomplished extraordinary things in Oregon.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards and Celebration Dinner* is a joyful and informative celebration of the work our congregations and people of faith do together. This year's event will be held the evening of May 10 at the Portland Hilton Hotel.

Our major event sponsor this year is Providence Health Systems, which is joined so far by Legacy Health Systems Northwest, the Episcopal Diocese, the Roman Catholic

Archdiocese of Portland, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, SEIU Local 503 and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

Last year, EMO added a silent auction that we will expand this year, with the proceeds going to support EMO's ministries. We are grateful for the hard work of our board and volunteers in creating this opportunity to help support EMO's vital ministries, both of advocacy around poverty, peace and environmental issues, and direct services.

We will continue our tradition of an offering collection to benefit our Community Ministries programs.

Community leaders honored

Fr. Richard Sirianni will be honored as "Ecumenist of the Year" for his ecumenical leadership at his parish, St. Henry Catholic Church in Gresham, and for his compassionate ministry as a chaplain with the Oregon Air National Guard.

Chief Ron Louie of the Hillsboro Police Department will receive the "Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award" for his innovative community policing strategies and strong commitment to multi-culturalism. The award is named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife, Jean.

"Ecumenical Service

Awards," in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon, will be presented to the "That's My Farmer!" program—a congregation-based initiative for community supported agriculture, founded by the Rev. John Pitney—and to volunteers for EMO's HIV Services, Nadyne and Ron Lewis from La Pine, Ore.

Join us at the celebration

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon strives to keep our event ticket prices down while providing a delicious dinner and pleasant atmosphere. Tickets are

Continued on back page

A time for hope

There are those moments in life when one can truly experience the transformation from despair to hope. Think for a moment: When have you had such an experience?



David Leslie

On March 10, I had the privilege of spending the day at Celilo Village. Celilo Village is located on the Columbia River just east of The Dalles in eastern Oregon—a place where Celilo Falls once roared, the salmon ran in abundance and the Columbia River Indian people fished, traded and gathered for thousands of years. I joined several thousand people who came together through the weekend to commemorate the loss of Celilo Falls 50 years ago when The Dalles Dam began operation.

The day opened with the arrival of canoes representing a number of Northwestern tribes and communities. Drumming and dancing, speeches and reflections, storytelling and educational

exhibits were part of the day's activities.

While all of it was interesting and moving, it was the storytelling that had the most profound impact on me. Packed into the Celilo Longhouse, chiefs and tribal leaders representing the Wy'am, Nez Perce, Yakama, Umatilla, Puyallup and Warm Springs tribes and sovereignties told stories about the destruction caused by the dam—stories of destruction far greater than just the loss of the falls. As the waters rose, the speakers intoned, the magnificent and life giving falls were silenced and buried under the water of the dammed up river. Gone was a way of life that had thrived for more than ten-thousand years. Gone were the fish platforms. Gone were the sacred traditions associated with the fishing grounds at Celilo that would no longer be passed on from father to son, mother to daughter. And over time, gone were the fish that not only sustained, but defined, life along the river.

Also lost in that era were any vestiges of hope that the federal government and its elected officials and bureaucrats would respect and honor the treaties—such as the Treaty of

As the Easter story reminds us, the sins of the past and those times of destruction can be made right through new ways of living, believing and relating to one another in God's cosmos.

1855—that promised fishing, hunting and the rights to a livelihood. Gone was the hope that the voices of tribal people would be heard when they described the loss of culture and impact on creation if the dam was built. In the end, their appeals fell on deaf ears and the dam came into being.

In the longhouse, pain and sadness were shared by tribal and non-tribal people alike. Yet, so too were the feelings of hope and the words of healing. Many times I heard the phrase, "What happened in the past cannot be undone," followed by, "We can live a better future."

In addition to the tribal elders, state and Federal government officials shared words. Having representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State of Oregon in attendance, spoke volumes of the commitment of tribal leaders to dialogue and develop collaborative approaches that are needed to restore economic

and cultural wellness. As other speakers testified throughout the day and into the evening, it is only through truth telling, repentance for past wrongs and destructive behavior, and the building of new possibilities together, that the despair of the past be turned into hope.

As I write this column during Lent, I am reminded of how this message is central to the Lenten season. For the Christian community, Lent provides the opportunity for us *both* to delve back into time to reflect upon the ministry and wrongful death of Jesus *and* to make amends for those moments in contemporary time when we have lived in ways that were not life giving. As the Easter story reminds us, the sins of the past and those times of destruction can be made right through new ways of living, believing and relating to one another in God's cosmos.

In this world that can produce its fill of despair, I continue to believe that hope has the last word. And once again, on the banks of the Columbia River, I was reminded of this everlasting truth.

Have a blessed Easter Season.



Collins Foundation offers matching grant Double your increase or your new gift now!

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is delighted to announce that the Collins Foundation has made a \$70,000 challenge grant for our 2007 Annual Fund drive. The Collins Foundation will match all new gifts to EMO's Annual Fund and will also match the amount of increase of any gifts increased over last year. The Annual Fund supports EMO's general operations and is used to support new and ongoing programs and initiatives.

"The Collins Challenge offers an important incentive for donors to grow their support for and testify to the importance of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and our ministries and services," said Carla Starrett-Bigg, EMO director of Development and Communications. "What a great opportunity for a new donor to double his or her gift or for ongoing supporters to strengthen their support."

The Collins Foundation was founded in 1947 and provides funding for religious, charitable and educational purposes in the state of Oregon. The Collins Foundation has a rich history of supporting community organizations like EMO.

For more information on the challenge grant, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

EMO's Board and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO's ministries. The following is a list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the Winter 2007 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon	Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership, and 2007 Annual Fund
Bailey Investment Group	NE Emergency Food Program
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	HIV Services
Central Lutheran Church	2007 Annual Fund
Christ Church Episcopal Parish	NE Emergency Food Program
Community Health Partnership	HIV Services
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	2007 Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon	2007 Annual Fund
First United Methodist Church	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Fremont United Methodist Church	NE Emergency Food Program
Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation	Patton Home
Legacy Health System NW	2007 Annual Fund
Mission of the Atonement	2007 Annual Fund
Presbytery of the Cascades	2007 Annual Fund
Providence Portland Medical Center	Russian Oregon Social Services
SEIU Local 503	2007 Annual Fund
The Black United Fund of Oregon	NE Emergency Food Program
The Collins Foundation	2007 Annual Fund
The Regeneration Project of the Tides Foundation	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
United Methodist Church	2007 Annual Fund
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference	
Wells Fargo Foundation	2007 Annual Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church	HIV Center, and Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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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) • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Advocacy day amplifies faith voices for climate justice Helping Oregon become a leader in climate solutions

A groundswell of grassroots faith community interest in global warming was in evidence at the *Interfaith Energy and Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day* on Feb. 26. Over 130 people from throughout Oregon attended—many were making their first visit ever to a legislator, motivated by the growing realization that we have a short window of opportunity to stabilize Earth's climate system. Penny Palmer of First United Methodist Eugene said with pride, "This was my first time ever lobbying. I was so impressed with how we pulled it off. I think we made an impact."

The day was organized with significant support from volunteers involved with the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign (OIGWC), coordinated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light project. Over 25 congregations and organizations served as cosponsors. Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Unitarians were among the faiths represented.

"Our regional strategy will deliver a cleaner environment and healthier economy. It sends a message to Congress and the White House that if they fail to enact policies at the national level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do our nation's part to combat global warming—that states will do it on our own."

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, Feb. 26, 2007, announcing a new five-state strategy to fight climate change.

After a heartfelt opening reflection and prayer by Rod McAfee, a Native American Pima elder, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury made a surprise visit to applaud the efforts of the participants and share some breaking news. Before it was announced publicly in a press conference with Governor Kulongoski, Bradbury and David Van't Hof, Kulongoski's sustainability advisory, announced the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative. A five-state effort brokered by Kulongoski, the initiative will create a regional cap on carbon and enable cooperation on similar measures to reduce greenhouse gases.

Similar to global warming initiatives in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions that are putting pressure for change on the national level, the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona and New Mexico will work together to achieve significant reductions in global warming gases. These states taken together would be the sixth largest emitting nation on the planet. According to Jim Edelson, a volunteer with the OIGWC who helped develop some of the global warming legislation, "Oregon's contribution as an individual state is rather small as a greenhouse gas emitter, but its leadership is helping leverage action in a very large region. Participants should not underestimate their impact."

A panel on what needs to be done to advance energy and climate stewardship in Oregon featured Rep. Jackie Dingfelder (D), chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee; Chuck Burley (R), vice chair of the same committee; Senator Frank Morse (R); and Mike Grainey, director of the Oregon Department of Energy. Dingfelder reminded the group of the tremendous opportunity that the 2007 Legislature provides to advance global warming legislation—a sharp contrast to the 2005 Legislature that passed a bill to prevent the state from taking action on global warming. Burley lifted up the bi-partisan progress made on the bill to build the biofuels industry in Oregon. Hopeful of a new direction, Grainey said, "We are going to continue to need new energy, but that energy does not need to come at the cost of our planet. It is time we change gears."

Dr. Paul Metzger, director of the Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins, at Multnomah Biblical Seminary, highlighted the growth of interest among Evangelicals and the need to be biblically grounded to sustain the interest. Rabbi Aryeh Hirshfield of P'ani Or spoke of the role of human creativity in generating solutions to global warming. Advocates included a dozen middle school students from the Islamic school of Muslim Educational Trust. They attended with their teacher Stephanie Guediri, who gave the meal prayer and a mediation on Islam and the environment. Guediri noted afterwards that the experience was a perfect social studies lesson where students learned about



Riding their talk—participants ride to Salem in a biofuel bus.

Photo credit: Jocela Cunningham

the democratic process and what they can do about an issue that affects their future.

After an afternoon of visits with legislators—with a special focus educating their legislators about the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) bill that would require 25 percent of Oregon's electricity to be derived from renewable resources by 2025—participants debriefed. Many discovered that groups opposing the RES had already been at work and had shared information that wasn't necessarily accurate. Some felt they were thrown a curve ball. Since it was early in the session, they were reminded that it can be hard to anticipate the challenges, especially when a bill has not been released.

A dialogue with Peter Cogswell and David Van't Hof from Governor Kulongoski's office proved a lively and informative cap to the day. Insights from visits revealed the pulse of the Legislature and some hopeful surprises of legislator support for renewable energy. Cogswell and Van't Hof emphasized that an advocacy day is just a beginning; to be effective, citizen advocates must keep in close communication during the legislative session and build a long term relationship. In an earlier session, "Effective Citizen Advocacy," a similar emphasis was placed on building a strong relationship. To help participants continue in their advocacy journey, OIGWC will hold several virtual advocacy days in upcoming months at critical legislative moments.

Celebrate "Earth Day Sunday" on April 22

Congregations or organizations can plan an Earth Day Sunday event around this year's theme, *The Food that Sustains Us*, by using the Eco-Justice Program's brand new study, action and worship resource, "Our Daily Bread: Harvesters of Hope and Gardeners of Eden." The resource contains background information on how we can create a more sustainable food system in the United States by supporting family farms and rural communities, promoting justice for minority farmers and farmworkers, improving environmental performance of farms, and making more informed decisions about the food we choose. The resource also has a bulletin insert with sample liturgy, sermon starters, ideas for youth and adult study, and suggestions for individual and congregational action.

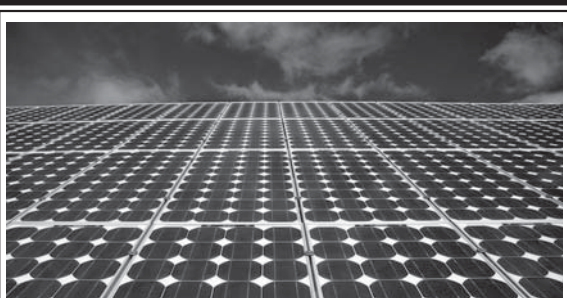
To download materials for planning an Earth Day Sunday event, go to www.ncccojustice.org/faithharvestworship.html. To register your Earth Day Event with the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program, go to www.ncccojustice.org/network/index.html.

Global warming heats up in Congress

The mainstreaming of global warming as a societal concern has resulted in an abundance of bills addressing global warming. The Interfaith Energy and Climate Campaign, coordinated by the National Council of Churches, is helping legislators and people of faith evaluate these bills from a moral perspective by issuing Faith Principles on Global Warming. Oregon religious leaders are invited to endorse the principles, which can be found at www.emoregon.org.

A postcard campaign is also underway that urges Congress to set a high bar for global warming legislation.

To participate in the postcard campaign, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214. The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign is organizing visits of religious leaders with Oregon's congressional delegation this spring and summer in home districts and in Washington, DC.



Interested in solar energy for your congregation?

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) offers solar assessments by a professional solar engineer to help congregations determine the potential of their rooftops for solar energy. For more information, go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php or call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214. OIPL is working on the financing of solar systems for congregations. OIPL also offers consultations and energy audits.

Christian camping: What's it all about?

This year thousands of people of all ages will eagerly journey to places set apart as sacred common ground by several EMO member denominations. Amid spectacular natural settings, these centers of Christian hospitality and learning open people's bodies, souls and minds in unparalleled ways.

In fact, the true stories of lives changed for the better have been so consistent and so numerous that individuals, local congregations and judicatories have caught a vision of outdoor ministries as a strategy to both nurture congregation members and to do effective outreach.

Born from that vision, there are today many camp and retreat centers serving people in Oregon, among the thousands of such centers spread far and wide across the country. What draws so many seekers? What are they finding in our midst? What is it about the mission of camp/retreat ministries and the settings themselves that remain so relevant and fulfilling over the years?

Mission

To create environments of Christian hospitality and learning designed to help people:

- affirm and expand their faith in God and live more fully as followers of Jesus Christ;
- develop lifestyles of loving interdependence with one another and all creation;
- grow as effective leaders who engage others in meaningful endeavors that address real needs; and
- find renewal and positive direction for their lives.

Longing to know God

Camp and retreat centers provide sacred common ground for seekers and local church leaders alike. Many respond to the less formal, natural settings—places of peace, adventure, fun and beauty—that make excellent entry points into the life of the church and practice of spiritual pathways leading to experiences of God. Parents who are not currently participating in church life will often send their children to camp.

We pleasantly surprise some adults, alienated from the church, when their service organization or school holds an event at one of our centers. We provide an essential link that invites persons into an ongoing, supportive faith community.

Nurturing leaders

We recruit and train hundreds of persons annually to serve thousands of children, youth and adults in our various settings. This substantial number of people participating in and leading camp/retreat ministries speaks to the vitality and meaning inherent in our work. We teach people what it means to follow in the way of Christ, to know they are loved and to embody that love wherever they go. We have a long history of engaged learning—people actively participating in a shared experience, reflecting on what it teaches them and putting new learning into practice. This action/reflection process works well in outdoor settings. Experiential learning keeps interest high since participants involve their entire beings, not just their minds, in the learning.

Enhancing community

One notable dimension of camp and retreat ministry is its consistency in giving groups of diverse people the vision, tools and sensitivity to become a caring community for one another. There are few other settings today where strangers come to live together 24 hours a day with the goal of becoming a loving community for each other. That explains in part why these temporary camp and retreat experiences have such lasting impact.

Caring for the earth

The degradation of the earth is a wake-up call to humanity. People do not stand outside creation, but are part of it. Whatever happens to the earth affects us all.

The locations of camp and retreat centers make them ideal



partners with schools and scientists, conservationists and public agencies, teaching environmental care to all who come. The spiritual, biblical roots of our faith speak powerfully to the sacredness of creation and make it clear that earth care is vital to discipleship.

Support for groups that serve the world

Nonprofit groups of all kinds seek out camp and retreat centers for their planning, training and programs. Much investment has gone into building, maintaining and improving quality, year-round centers designed to serve multiple groups. More than an investment in buildings, it is ultimately an investment in changed lives. All of the groups that are guests at camp and retreat centers share one thing in common: they exist to make life better in the world and to address real needs. Camps and retreat centers help that happen. They extend nurturing hospitality to these groups and are partners in healing, justice, personal and spiritual growth. Through this ministry, the church extends its love to people and places far beyond what we alone would ever know.

More Christian Camps in Oregon

Camp Angelos Retreat and Conference Center

Established by the Greek Orthodox community, Camp Angelos is located in the Sandy River Valley at 32149 SE Stevens Rd., Corbett. For more information, call (503) 695-5267 or visit www.campangelos.org.

Camp Arrah Wanna

A ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Oregon, Camp Arrah Wanna is located in the foothills of Mt. Hood, 24075 E. Arrah Wanna Blvd., Welches. For more information, call (503) 622-3189 or visit www.camparrahwanna.org.

Camp Lutherwood

A Lutheran ministry, Camp Lutherwood is located near Junction City at 22960 Hwy. 36, Cheshire. For more information, call (541) 998-6444 or visit www.lutherwood.org.

Camp White Branch

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon conducts three camps for youth in August at Camp White Branch, located 30 miles out of Sisters on Highway 242. For more information, call (503) 226-7648 or visit www.oregondisciples.org.

Camp Adams

Camp Adams, in Molalla, is a ministry of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Two independent campsites are available featuring 230 tree-covered acres, dining halls, conference rooms, playfields and cabins. The camps share a common swimming hole.

Camp Adams offers programs throughout the year for adults, youth and children. The camp hosts outdoor school programs in the spring and fall. The United Church of Christ summer camp programs consist of eight week-long sessions for various age groups.

For summer camp schedule and information, go to www.campadams.org or www.cpcucc.org. For information regarding rentals and other programs, call (503) 829-2118.

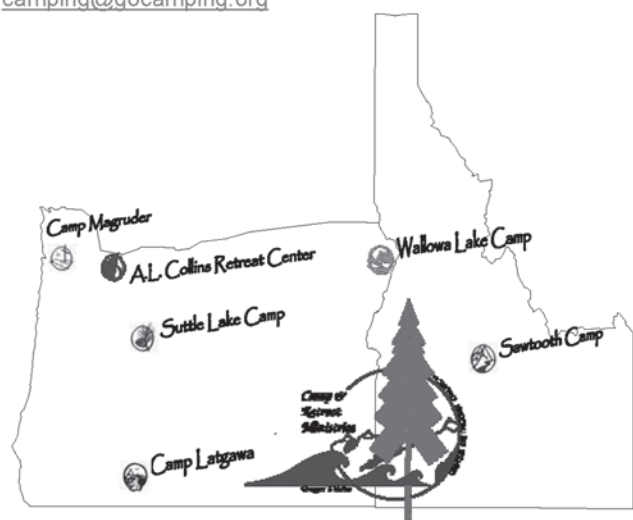


Oregon Idaho Camp & Retreat Ministry
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Outdoors"
A Ministry of the United Methodist Church
www.gocamping.org

Creating communities where lives are transformed in Christ.

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United Methodist camping: An example of reaching the whole family of God

What's a church camp to do when a main part of its mission is to serve a constituency that is aging? What can the church do to respond to the growing issue in the United States of who has access to nature so essential to every person's development? How do we assist people in developing healthy relationships with those who matter most in their lives?

These and similar questions have been buzzing around the meetings of the program division of the United Methodist camp board for several years. The answer: expand family camping opportunities. Today, at our six campsites we offer as many as 25 different sessions each year for families of all kinds.

Specialized events

Though all-church weekend retreats and traditional family camps at several sites are still a mainstay of the family camp lineup, the real growth has come in more specialized events. These include: *GrandCamps* (for grandparents and grandchildren); *Mom and Me/Dad and Me* weekends (for parent or aunt/uncle or other significant adult mentor and child); *Shakespeare Camps* (for families with an interest in theater to take advantage of our proximity to a noted regional theater); *Safe Space Family Weekend* (for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning persons of all ages and allies); *Family Work Weekends* (opportunities to do volunteer service together both at camp and in surrounding communities and a great way to teach compassion); *Creation Vacation Camps* (a supported family vacation connecting low-income families); and *Strength for the Journey Family Camp* (for families in which one or more member is living with HIV+/AIDS).

The United Methodist's newest effort to reach families is called *Spiritlife Family Vacation Camp*, especially designed for families who are vacationing in the popular tourist location of northeastern



Oregon's Willowa Mountains. We have devoted our whole site there (Willowa Lake, Joseph, Ore.) to adult and family ministries, including building new facilities to accommodate this vision. *Spiritlife* vacation camp can be part of a local congregation's outreach strategy to new families in their community.

What have we learned

Our conclusion? In order to reach children today, one must reach the family. Several years ago we noticed that many children and youth, when given the choice of going to camp on their own or staying home to be with the parent(s) for a week of vacation, will choose to stay with the parent(s). The experience and aftermath of September 11 has only exacerbated the tendency in many American families to be together or skip an opportunity altogether. Family vacation camps are helping us reach more children than our previous full summer schedule of children-only camps. Church camps today provide families with a "safe neighborhood" in which to go out and play, and grow together.

For more information about United Methodist camps, call (503) 226-7931 or (800) 593-7539.

Camp & postmodern values

Camps are reaching people of all ages—making it possible for people to hear God calling them to be disciples. Many of today's campers are shaped by postmodern perspectives and attitudes. Here's how camping strengthens the effectiveness of churches reaching today's youth and their families:

Ministry experiences: Youth would rather experience a concept than hear a lecture—so personal experiences of involvement, participation in small groups and service to others are built into camp. "Big words" of faith are lived at camp!

Fellowship: Community, meaningful friendships, opportunities for honesty and genuine relationships across age levels abound at camp. These are all postmodern values.

Worship: Postmodern campers look for shared encounters with God where they learn from others. They benefit from active participation in worship and experiencing the presence of God—without needing PowerPoint and indoor lighting effects!

Discipleship: The journey is valued by postmoderns—camp is a place and time for a heart-change that then invites one to hit a life-long road of following Christ.

Evangelism: Today's believers are more likely to make a decision based on their witnessing a transformation of another soul than on logical arguments, doctrine or historical evidence.

Some of you may be reading this and thinking—well, what's new about that? Indeed, for camp supporters the old, old story just keeps getting new again as a new generation of leaders discover the vitality of disciple-making through camping ministries. This is what your support makes possible—keeping camping ministries effective in reaching the next generation!

CAMP HOWARD

Accredited by the American Camping Association

www.cyocamphoward.org

Over Night Camps 2007

July 1-3 Mini Camp
 July 8-13 General Camp & Target Sport Camp
 July 13 - 15 Cheerleader Camp, Jesus Jamboree and Volleyball Camp
 July 15 - 20 General Camp & Remote Control Car Camp
 July 22-27 General Camp and Counselor in Training Level 1
 July 29-August 3 General Camp and Counselor in Training Level 1
 August 5 - 10 General Camp and Counselor in Training Level 2
 August 6 - 9 Day Camp
 August 12-17 General Camp and Counselor in Training Level 2
 August 13-16 Day Camp
 August 19-22 Mini Camp, General Camp, Target Sport Camp & Remote Control Car



CYO Summer Camps In Town DAY Sport Camps

July 16 - 20 Basketball Camp @ Valley Catholic High School boys and girls grades 1-8
 July 22-27 Football Camp @ Valley Catholic High School grades 3-8 (Uniform hand out on Sunday July 22)
 July 23-27 Basketball Camp @ La Salle High School Grades 1-8
 July 29-Aug 3 Football Camp @ Central Catholic High School grades 3-8 (Uniform hand out on Sunday July 29)

We want YOU to join us for summer FUN!
Send someone you love to Camp this summer.
We bus from the Madeleine School in Portland to Camp Howard which is 45 minutes East of Portland.

Call 503-231-9484

Presbytery of the Cascades Summer Camps

www.campcascades.org



Camps For
 Family
 Dad & Me
 Mom & Me
 Youth
 Middle School
 Senior High

Locations
 Camp Magruder
 Suttle Lake
 Honeymoon State Park

Presbytery of the Cascades Summer Camps provide individuals of all ages the opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, each other, their families and their church home through outdoor living experiences in a distinctly Christian community.



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 503-460-3024
 1-866-200-5559 toll free

EMO sets legislative agenda for 2007

“Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is committed to bringing the voices of people of faith in the policy-making process at the Oregon Legislature and beyond. Our advocacy is designed to create systems, institutions and public policies that promote peace, justice and a life of possibility for all people.”

So begins the preamble to the EMO statement of Legislative Priorities for 2007. After a short discussion of our guiding principles, this statement goes on to outline specific legislative goals in seven areas: family economic security and tax fairness, health care, affordable housing, hunger relief, preserving and protecting the environment, human and civil rights, and church-state relations.

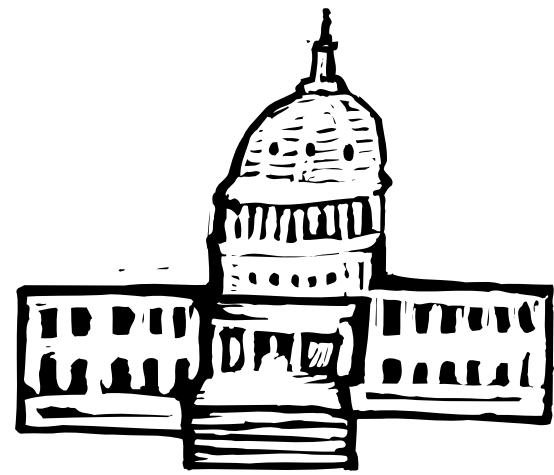
This document guides our Public Policy program and the Christians for Peace and Justice Advocacy Network, as we seek to build support for policies to end poverty in Oregon and to promote peace and social justice. These types of opportunities are abundant in this session of the Oregon Legislature.

Listed below are a dozen key bills EMO is supporting this session. To see our entire statement of legislative priorities for 2007, go to www.emoregon.org/legislative_priorities.php.

12 bills supporting peace and social justice:

1. **Expand health care access for children.** Pass HB 2201, the Healthy Kids Program, to provide new health care access and insurance coverage to 117,000 uninsured children in Oregon.
2. **Support funding of programs to prevent and treat mental illness, drug addiction and alcoholism.** Pass HB 2535 and SB 184.

3. **Close payday loan loopholes.** Pass HB 2871, protecting Oregonians against predatory lending practices by placing a 36 percent interest cap on all consumer loans by non-depository institutions.
4. **Provide affordable housing.** Pass SB 38 to provide new funding for affordable housing through an increase in the document recording fee that is applied to real estate transactions.
5. **Reduce hunger and support Oregon farmers by passing HB 2288 and HB 2634.** HB 2288 sets up a statewide food policy council, and HB 2634 expands the Senior Farmers Market Coupon programs.
6. **Further reduce hunger, by providing \$2 million in funding for the Oregon Food Bank Network.**
7. **Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC), by passing HB 3023 or HB 2398.** Working families below the poverty level should not have to pay state income taxes. Both of these bills increase the value of the state EIC.
8. **Fight global warming by passing SB 87, SB 323, SB 375 and SB 576.** SB 87 expands Public Purpose Charge on utility bills to provide new investment in renewable energy resources. SB 323 requires the State Department of Energy to create a renewable portfolio standard under which electric utilities must derive 25 percent of annual retail electricity sales from renewable energy resources by calendar year 2025. SB 375 increases energy efficiency standards for appliances. SB 576 improves energy efficiency standards for buildings.



9. **Provide energy assistance to low-income Oregonians by passing SB 461.**
10. **Strengthen support for low-income families and improve effectiveness of Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) program by passing HB 2469.**
11. **Protect gays and lesbians from discrimination by passing HB 2007 (civil unions) and SB 2 (anti-discrimination).**
12. **Urge Congress to end the U.S. presence in Iraq.** Pass HJM 9.

Interfaith Advocacy Day

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Policy briefings were given by Michael Anderson of the Housing Alliance, Patti Whitney-Wise of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force and Dr. Bruce Goldberg, director of the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Although much legislation was discussed, a few priorities emerged. Anderson discussed the Housing Alliance's support for a \$100 million dollar Housing Opportunity Fund. This would provide \$80 million for construction and rehabilitation of affordable multi-family rental housing, \$10 million for programs that directly address homelessness, \$4 million for programs to build the capacity of local agencies to develop and maintain affordable housing and \$6 million for programs to help low-income families and individuals move into home ownership. More information is available on the Housing Alliance package at www.oregonhousingalliance.org.

Whitney-Wise noted that hunger activists are supporting several measures, including a request that funding for the Oregon Food Bank network

be increased to \$2 million annually. This support would help build the capacity of local food banks throughout Oregon to respond to the food needs of seniors, working families, single mothers and others facing difficulty putting food on the table. To learn more about hunger issues, visit the Web site of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force at www.oregonhunger.org, or the Oregon Food Bank at www.oregonfoodbank.org.

Dr. Goldberg discussed health care needs in Oregon and focused on the Healthy Kids Program—a proposal that would extend health care coverage to 117,000 Oregon children who currently have no coverage. By providing new state funding, through an increase in the tobacco tax, the state would be able to leverage additional federal funding for children's health coverage. For more information on the Healthy Kids Program, visit www.healthykidsoregon.org.

Chip Terhune, the chief of staff for Governor Ted Kulongoski, addressed participants during lunch. He stressed the importance of involvement by all citizens in the legislative process and the distinctive role of the faith community in giving voice to the needs of those who may not be able to represent themselves due to poverty, work schedules and other constraints.

After lunch, participants marched from First Congregational Church to the Capitol Building, where they met with their legislators and reported back on the results of their meetings.

Many of the 49 organizations that cosponsored *Interfaith Advocacy Day* are continuing to coordinate advocacy activities during the legislative session and will continue to engage the network of faith advocates who attended the event. The session is scheduled to continue through the end of June.

For more information on future Interfaith Advocacy Days and other activities of our Public Policy program, ask our Public Policy director, Kevin Finney, to add you to our Peace and Justice e-news list, kfinney@emoregon.org.



Photo credit: Barbara Stone

Faith leaders at Interfaith Advocacy Day included (from left): David Leslie, EMO executive director; Emily Gottfried, American Jewish Committee executive director; Rev. Dr. Daniel Bryant, EMO immediate past president; and Bob Horenstein, Jewish Federation of Portland community relations director.

How to contact your elected officials

U.S. Senators

Senator Gordon Smith (R): (503) 326-3386 or go to www.gsmith.senate.gov/webform.htm.

Senator Wyden (D): (503) 326-7525, or go to www.wyden.senate.gov/contact.html.

Both Senators represent the entire state of Oregon in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. Representatives

To find out who your Congressional Representative is, go to www.house.gov. There, you can enter your zip code to find out who your Congressional Representative is.

Oregon's five Representatives are *Earl Blumenauer* (D), *Peter De Fazio* (D), *Darlene Hooley* (D), *Greg Walden* (R) and *David Wu* (D).

To contact your representative, visit www.house.gov/writerep/ or call their number below.

Rep. Wu (District 1), (503) 326-2901
Rep. Walden (District 2), (541) 776-4646
Rep. Blumenauer (District 3), (503) 231-2300
Rep. DeFazio (District 4), (541) 465-6732
Rep. Hooley (District 5), (503) 588-9100

Governor Ted Kulongoski

160 State Capitol, 900 Court St.
 Salem, Oregon 97301-4047
 Phone: (503) 3378-3111;
 Governor's Citizens Line: (503) 378-4582
 Fax: (503) 378-6827

To send an e-mail to the governor, go to www.governor.state.or.us/contact_us.shtml. Visit the governor's Web site at www.governor.state.or.us.

State Legislators

Don't know who your state senator or representative is? Do you know who they are but don't know how to contact them? Here's how:

By phone: (800) 332-2313 (toll free, outside Salem) or (503) 986-1000 (in Salem).

On the Web: Go to the "Citizen's Guide to the Oregon Legislative Process" at www.leg.state.or.us/citizenguide; click on Find Your Legislator.

Or you can write to members of the State Legislature at: www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr/writeset.htm.

Thousands march & pray for peace in Iraq

The Rev. Lynn Smouse Lopez, pastor at Ainsworth United Church of Christ in Portland, referenced the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vocal opposition to the Vietnam War on Sunday, March 18, at the South Park Blocks in downtown Portland. She exhorted the audience of 10,000 anti-war protesters to speak out against similar violence in Iraq. The gathered crowd marked the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion in Iraq with a rally, march and a peace action camp.



Photo credit: Sherry Fishman

EMO and Pax Christi shared a booth at the peace action camp. Pictured: Jan Elfers (left) from EMO and Clair Burt (right) from Pax Christi.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and the Catholic peace organization Pax Christi shared a booth at the "camp," and encouraged Oregonians to sign a petition supporting Rep. Earl Blumenauer's House Resolution 663: "New Direction for Iraq." The legislation was written partly in response to a letter signed by 144 faith leaders in Oregon and sent to the Oregon Congressional delegation. The letter asks for a comprehensive approach to ending the war in Iraq, taking into full account the humanitarian crisis that the four-year conflict has brought.

Rep. Blumenauer was one of the featured speakers along with representatives from Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi-Palestinian writer who coordinated the first survey of Iraqi civilian casualties.

Immediately following the march, EMO cosponsored an Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace in Iraq at the First Unitarian Church in Portland, with approximately 200 people attending the service. Goudarz Eghtedari, PhD, of the American-Iranian Friendship Council, addressed the audience and read a Rumi poem in Arabic and English. The Venerable Jan Chozen Bays of the Great Vow Zen Monastery, the Rev. Gabrielle Chavez of Christ the



Photo credit: Jan Elfers

On March 18, an estimated 10,000 people participated in the peace march in downtown Portland.

Healer Church, Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield of P'Nai Or and the Rev. Chuck Cooper offered words expressing grief and hope. Musical selections were performed by Mona Warner and Marilyn Keller.

The next interfaith service will be held at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 Peaceful Lane, Portland, on Sunday, April 22, at 4 p.m. The last service of this series will be on Sunday, May 20, 4 p.m. at the Muslim Educational Trust, 10330 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Tigard. For more information about the services, call Jan Elfers at EMO, (503) 221-1054, for more information.

Welcoming people with disabilities into the faith community

What brings a Catholic, Jew and Presbyterian together? In the case of the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon (IDNO), it's their common concern for people with disabilities being included and welcomed within faith communities.

The Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon is more than representatives from these three religions—it's an entire group of concerned individuals from various faith communities who hope to help people with disabilities find a more enthusiastic welcome in whichever religious community they wish to join. This collaboration between members of many different faiths extends an earnest welcome to anyone with a disability who wants to be involved with their faith community. This is not to say that people with special needs have been ignored or not invited into religious circles, but the welcome is often not fully offered since well-meaning congregants and religious leaders don't know *how to fully include* those with

physical or developmental disabilities or mental health issues in congregational activities. In short, more can be done so that people with disabilities can experience a true sense of belonging and participate more fully in the life of the community.

Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon's mission is to activate the resources of faith communities throughout the state to address the unmet needs of people with disabilities, their families and those providing care to them. IDNO's first community program was the development of the Interfaith Council on Mental Health (ICMH). Through a series of pilot group meetings with Oregon's religious leaders, ICMH gathered input from individuals representing a wide variety of religious backgrounds to discuss what might be construed as barriers to religious involvement for people with mental illness and reflect on their experience of mental health issues in their own faith community. In response to the valuable insights

from these pilot groups, ICMH will provide resources to religious leaders and others involved in health ministries.

The collaborative efforts of the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon are not just about mental illness—they are about all disabilities. It is the intent of this young organization to provide information, support and training on disabilities to faith-based groups so that everyone can enjoy participation in their religious community. Watch for IDNO's conference in the spring of 2008 entitled "That All May Worship," where living with disabilities and belonging to faith communities come together.

If you would like to help IDNO with this effort, or if you would like more information about the organization, contact Rick Parfrey at (503) 638-0109, Dorothy Coughlin at (503) 233-8399, or Corinne Spiegel at (503) 226-7079.

Interreligious committee works for peace in the Middle East through education & experience

A group of local Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders convened on Feb. 14 at Bilal Mosque to discuss ways in which they can support efforts for peacemaking in Israel and Palestine. Rabbi Joshua Stampfer and the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page—who co-led a Journey of Peace to Israel and Palestine last fall—along with Frank Afranji—a local Muslim who co-led a similar trip with the two in 1989—called the committee together. The organization was active in past years and is being reinvigorated by the recent trip and interest from the participants.

The focus of the group will be to provide a place for balanced information and education around issues focused on Israel and Palestine, to act jointly around points of consensus and to involve grass roots participation in activities such as trips to the Middle East, interfaith retreats, public services, educational forums, lectures and seminars.

In the immediate future, the committee is exploring a statement or action regarding the 40th anniversary of the West Bank occupation in 2007 and Israeli Independence/Al Nakba (the Catastrophe) in 2008. The group is also considering planning another trip to the Middle East in the coming year and an interfaith retreat for spiritual renewal.

For more information about the committee, call Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori to be April speaker at The Center

Former OSU professor and Corvallis church rector, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, comes to The Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral for a lecture/workshop during the weekend of April 20 to 22, 2007. Named by *Newsweek* as "one of the 10 people to watch in 2007," Jefferts Schori was elected the first woman Presiding Bishop in the Episcopal Church, USA in 2006.

This is an opportunity to hear this remarkable woman who is making history in the church today. Lecture: \$15, \$5 students; workshop: \$50, \$15 students. For tickets, call (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.



HIV Day Center plans 18th anniversary celebration

The EMO HIV Day Center invites you to join Rep. Chip Shields and former EMO Executive Director Rev. Dr. Rodney Page for a celebration of 18 years of service to Portland's HIV/AIDS community. The Day Center, along with its many volunteers, provides its low income, HIV positive clients with meals, counseling, clothing, showers and a whole range of support services, including haircuts, massage, foot care and acupuncture.

The event will be held at the Day Center, located at the Ainsworth United Church of Christ, NE 30th and Ainsworth, Portland, on Wednesday, June 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. Our celebration will include music, snacks and tours of the Day Center. You will have an opportunity to meet Day Center staff, volunteers and clients. There is plenty of free, on-street parking. Come as you are. For more information, call (503) 460-3822.



A client at EMO's HIV Day Center.

EMO Annual Celebration

Continued from page 1

\$50 each. Invitations will be sent in April, with an enclosed reply card. To reserve your tickets now, you may also contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Jennifer Kam at EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Sponsor a table

For \$500, you can sponsor a table of 10 at the event. Ask nine friends to join you in sponsoring and attending for a fun and worthwhile evening—or treat friends and business associates to a place at your table. Table sponsors can also designate seats at their table for EMO guests who otherwise could not afford the \$50 dinner fee.

Donate or solicit auction items

We welcome the donation of Silent Auction items. All money raised from the items will go to support EMO and its programs. A wide variety of items are welcome! Examples include: works of art and jewelry; personal services like manicures, haircuts, professional massages, accounting, consulting and auto maintenance; recreation items such as a weekend at a beach house, overnight accommodations at a hotel and restaurant gift certificates; and retail gift certificates and gift baskets.

Your favorite service business, restaurant or shop can attract new customers and free publicity while doing good for our community. Please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Jennifer Kam at EMO, (503) 221-1054, for solicitation materials and receipts. Thank you!

To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please e-mail mbush@emoregon.org.

Upcoming EMO sponsored/cosponsored events

April 22

Children's Advocacy Day. 2 to 4 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown Portland.

The theme for Children's Advocacy Day is "For Every Child, A Better World: What ONE Can Do." Take a public stand in advocating for the well-being of children in our congregations, our communities, our state and the world—especially regarding accessibility to affordable health care and quality public education. Children's choirs will perform and there will be activities for children. EMO, the Episcopal Diocese and the ELCA Synod are event cosponsors. For more information, visit www.diocese-oregon.org.

April 22

Interfaith Service: How do we as people of faith support all religious beliefs? 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. This series of services is being sponsored by EMO, The Interfaith Alliance-NW Oregon and the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland. These services will provide participants with the opportunity to worship with people of different faiths in churches, temples, mosques and synagogues. The topics will be moral issues we are facing as people of faith.

April 23 and 27

Energy Stewardship Workshops for Congregations and Communities. "Save Your Congregation Energy and Money" from 12 to 2:30 p.m. and "Energy Stewardship" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 23 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 6835 SW 46th, Portland, and April 27 at La Grande United Methodist Church, 1612 Fourth St., La Grande. Presented by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a project of EMO and geared to the needs of congregations, the 12 p.m. workshop will cover key principles of energy stewardship for congregations, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy expenses, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. Topics for the evening workshop include reducing energy costs for homes and businesses, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship. 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. Cosponsored by the Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon. To register, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 203, or download registration brochure at www.emoregon.org. Pre-registration is recommended by April 18; however, registration will be accepted at the door. The cost for each workshop is \$8 per person with discounts for more than one attending. A light meal will be provided at each workshop.

May 10

EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner with Silent Auction. See front page.

May 20

Interfaith Service: How do we as people of faith support families? 4 to 6 p.m. at Muslim Educational Trust, 10330 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Tigard. For information about the Interfaith Services, see description for April 22 above.

June 6

EMO HIV Day Center's 18th Anniversary Celebration. See story on this page.

"Rodney Page Community Ministries Center" opens at the historic Patton Home

City Commissioner Erik Sten, the Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Frank Afranji from the Muslim Educational Trust, EMO Board President the Rev. Alcena Boozer and EMO lifetime Board member Letty Owings were among the speakers celebrating the opening of EMO's Rodney Page Community Ministries Center at north Portland's Patton Home on March 21. The Page Center is named after the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, who served as executive director of EMO from 1974 until his retirement in 1996.

The result of years of community effort, the Rodney Page Community Ministries Center occupies the third floor of the historic Patton Home, which EMO converted into a 63-room, low income housing facility. The Center provides office space for local community groups and organizations, most of whom offer direct services to Patton Home residents, as well as the community at large. New services located at the Center so far include the Interfaith Spiritual Center and the Muslim Chaplains of Oregon.

During the event, EMO Executive Director David Leslie thanked Campaign leaders Bonny Groshong and the Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church, and the many who



The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page and his wife Sandi cutting the ribbon to the *Rodney Page Community Ministries Center* on March 21.

worked to make the Patton Home and the Page Center a reality. The event concluded with a ribbon cutting ceremony, during which Dr. Page expressed the importance of a diverse community working together, as they did with this project. He believes the Center will provide a vital service for the entire community.

For information about the Patton Home or the Rodney Page Community Ministries Center, call (503) 221-1054.