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The Power of Reconciliation EMO's Annual Celebration honors community leaders promoting justice, peace & reconciliation

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 Community Awards and Celebration Dinner* is a joyful and informative recognition of the work our congregations and people of faith accomplish together. This year's dinner will be held the evening of Oct. 13 at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland, with the theme "The Power of Reconciliation."

Our major dinner sponsors this year are Providence Health & Services and Legacy Health System, which to date are joined by Augustana Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church in Portland, First United Methodist Church in Portland, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Ron Means, Oregon Food

Bank, the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page & Sandra Page, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, SEIU Local 503, Willamette Quarterly Meeting, Wright Land Co., and the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell & George Crandall.

The event will also include a silent auction, with proceeds going to support EMO's ministries, as well as continuing our tradition of a collection for our ministries around the state.

Community leaders and organizations honored

The Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church since 1995, will be honored as "Ecumenist of the Year."

Knutson is dedicated to collaborative, ecumenical and interfaith work for the greater
Continued on page 4



Photo credit: Jan Eifers

The Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, will be honored as "Ecumenist of the Year," in recognition of Knutson's leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.

Health Justice Summer

Federal health reform efforts intensify as the *Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign* launches steering committee, web page, health reform forums

The summer of 2009 has proved to be a busy and challenging one for all concerned about federal (and state) health reform. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has launched the *Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign (OIHJC)*—a joint project of EMO with the Archimedes Movement and Oregon Action. The goal of the campaign is to educate Oregonians from diverse religious backgrounds about the problems with our current health care system and engage them

in efforts to reform the health care system so that it provides universal health care coverage and access, reduces or eliminates health disparities, and is more cost-effective.

To understand the details of complex health reform proposals, EMO has been actively engaging concerned religious leaders and activists in federal health reform discussions. A number of statewide conference call briefings were set up for members of the

faith community. Two calls focused on how reform would affect poor and low-income Oregonians. Participants also discussed both Medicaid expansion as part of health reform and how the proposed insurance exchange, combined with affordability subsidies, would assist low-income Oregonians in purchasing health insurance. Current federal proposals would provide subsidies on a sliding-scale basis to those low-income individuals or families that make less than

300 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, the federal poverty level is \$22,050. So if subsidies went up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four, they would be available to all such families making up to \$66,150.

Other briefing calls examined how health reform would affect seniors and Medicare, and explored issues of immigrant access to health care under federal health reform.

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Health care, justice and the faith community

For centuries, the Christian community and other faith traditions have been at the forefront of providing some of the best health care in the world.



David Leslie

Christian Missionary Orders, inspired by the model of Jesus as a compassionate healer, care for the poor in developing nations throughout the world. Closer to home, faith-based health systems like PeaceHealth, Adventist Health, Providence Health & Services and Legacy Health System tend to the health needs of people on all ends of the economic spectrum. Religious community organizations like the Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's HIV Day Center offer important health care resources, ensuring support to those often living with inadequate care.

Religious communities are also responsible for creating and supporting community-based services to provide health care for those with inadequate or no health insurance. In parts of Oregon as diverse as Southwest Portland, Bend and Bandon, religious organizations have

joined together with other sectors to create medical clinics that offer free or reduced cost services to meet the needs of those who critically need such care.

Portland's Southwest Community Health Center is actively assisted by the its own Ecumenical Support Group, whose members include the Bilal Mosque Association, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Hillsdale Community Church, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, St. Clare Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church and West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The Rev. Bill Ellis, formerly of Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend, helped to found the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic of the Cascades in Bend. Currently, the Rev. Stephen Koski of Bend's First Presbyterian Church serves on the VIM Board of Directors. Religious leaders also sit on the board of the Bandon Community Health Center—a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) that will be opening this fall. (The RHC program is intended to increase primary care services for Medicaid and Medicare patients in rural communities.)

The existence of these services speaks volumes to awareness of the need and the concern that many Oregonians have for the condition of their neighbors, as these programs depend on the generous support of donors from all sectors. Simply

put, without such support, many Oregonians would not get the health care they need.

However, their very presence reminds us of the enormous and unnecessary gaps in the way we provide health care. As a recent pastoral letter issued through the National Council of Churches states, **"Health and wholeness in our communities cannot be achieved piecemeal, nor can access to health care be regarded as the privilege of some."** Access to quality and affordable health care should not be based on wealth, employment status or age, but on the principles of justice and fairness rooted in the belief in the basic human dignity of all people. **Thus, as people of faith, we are called to affirm that access to affordable and quality health care is a basic human right that should be extended to all people.**

Sadly, however, this sentiment is not universally shared. Last month, I attended one of Congressman Curt Schrader's town hall meetings in Oregon City. One participant spoke eloquently about living with Parkinson's disease and the high quality of care he was receiving from his doctor. He then concluded his remarks with his belief that current legislation being considered in Congress, if passed, would cause him to lose the right to choose his doctor,

and therefore he would do all he could to fight the reform efforts offered by the President or Congress. What I found disappointing was that he was misinformed about the proposed legislation. More disappointing, he missed the opportunity to advocate for similar coverage for those in this country who have Parkinson's but who do not have the means to get the same high quality, excellent coverage that he has for himself.

And it is at this point that the faith community can offer major contributions in the health care debates in the days ahead. We can help to broaden this man's perspective to include the needs of all people. We can lift up the big vision of universal coverage and develop places for theologically enriched and informed deliberations about the future of health care policy in this country. We can also continue to compassionately and creatively serve those in need through a variety of means, be they big health care systems or local grassroots organizations.

And through all of this, we can advocate passionately in the spirit of the prophet Amos, who said, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream," carrying us to the day when health care inequities will be no more.

Upcoming EMO sponsored & cosponsored events

October 3

Food Sovereignty for All: An Interfaith Summit—Overhauling the Food System with Faith-Based Initiatives. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Westside Community Church, 4000 SW Western Blvd, Corvallis. Join us for a tour of local demonstration sites and discussion on how faith communities can make a difference in our food system. Learn about community gardens, commercial kitchens, micro-enterprise incubation, buying clubs, wellness policies and more. Visit the farmers' market to gain an understanding of electronic food stamp access and the "That's My Farmer" program. Participants will then explore the challenges and opportunities presented by faith-based initiatives in a moderated roundtable discussion. A locally grown lunch prepared by graduates of EMO's cooking program will be included. Learn more and register at www.emoregon.org.



October 13

EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. 5:30 p.m. Reception/Silent Auction and 7 p.m. Dinner/Awards Presentation at the Portland Hilton, Pavilion, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. See details on the front page. For more information or for reservations, visit www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

October 18

Hand to Hand. 12 to 4 p.m. at Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. A community resource fair, bringing together over 30 Portland metro area nonprofits that provide essential safety net services and support to local individuals and families. For more information, contact Bob Horenstein at bob@jewishportland.org or (503) 245-6496.

December 1

World AIDS Day Fundraiser and Breakfast. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Concordia University, Portland. Sponsored by Concordia University, this fundraiser will benefit EMO's HIV Day Center. More details will be available at www.emoregon.org.

Ecumenical conferences across the globe

Parliament of the World's Religions — Dec. 3 to 9, 2009, Melbourne, Australia. First held in 1893, the Parliament of the World's Religions brings together the world's religious and spiritual communities, their leaders and their followers to a gathering where peace, diversity and sustainability are discussed and explored in the context of interreligious understanding and cooperation. This year, delegates will choose from over 450 activities, including daily observances of many traditions, intrareligious and interreligious programs, models of engagement, symposia, performances, open space dialogue and exhibits. *For more information and to register, visit www.parliamentofreligions.org.*

Sabeel Witness Visit — Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, 2009, Israel and Palestine. Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, it seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians and promote unity among them toward social action. The "Sabeel Witness Visit" offers a window into the daily lives of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories and the experiences and challenges they face. The land cost is \$1,100. *For more information or to register, visit www.sabeel.org.*

voice

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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

IFFP partnering with Bon Appetit to provide cooking classes for kids

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) partnered with Bon Appetit Management Company this summer to provide cooking classes for middle school students who are part of Expresiones, a program of Hacienda Child Development Center. Expresiones is an after-school and summer enrichment program designed to increase family participation and school attendance and reduce youth risk factors such as gang involvement, dropping out of school and alcohol abuse. Hacienda works with community organizations throughout the summer to provide activities for the kids.

The cooking classes were taught by three enthusiastic chefs from Bon Appetit Management Company—a food service company that is committed to creating a just and sustainable food system. Bon Appetit generously donated chef time, supplies and food for the classes as a way to give back to the community, empower youth to build a better food system and promote healthy eating.

Since IFFP conducted a 2007 food assessment in areas of northeast Portland—including the Cully neighborhood where Hacienda is based—IFFP has prioritized these areas in its projects to improve food access. Providing cooking classes for Hacienda is



Photo credit: Carolyn Nelson

Bon Appetit chef Jesus Valencia teaches Expresiones students from Hacienda Child Development Center how to cook healthy meals.

one of several such projects. The classes give kids a chance to learn new skills, eat healthy food, be inspired by people who love their work and take home recipes to try at home with their parents. IFFP is planning other classes with the chefs for the fall.

If you would like more information about the cooking classes, please contact Alison Warren at (503) 221-1054, ext. 210, or awarren@emoregon.org.

Health Justice Summer

Continued from page 1

EMO has also been sending out targeted action alerts, joined a lobbying delegation in meeting with our senators and representatives in Washington, DC, and more. Additional calls are planned, though not yet scheduled.

Forums on Faith, Health Reform & Our Community

Starting in September, the OIHJC will be working with coalitions of churches in communities around the state to host major forums on health reform. Each forum will be at least two hours in length and involve a range of perspectives on the policy issues debated. Each will discuss the reasons different religious traditions have historically had a great concern with health care, as well as how these traditions might bear on current debates.

(See box below for details about upcoming forums.)

Forums scheduled on "Faith, Health Reform & Our Community"

Salem: Sept. 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 700 Marion St. NE.

Bend: Sept. 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 230 NE Ninth St.

Eugene: Oct. 4, time TBD, First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St.

Hood River: Oct. 15, time TBD, Hood River Middle School, 1602 May St.

Portland: Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Maranatha Church of God, 4222 NE 12th Ave.

Beaverton: Nov. 10, 7 to 9 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Butner Rd.

All forums scheduled will be posted on the events calendar on the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Steering committee members recruited

During this summer, EMO recruited an impressive array of religious Oregonians to serve on a steering committee for the OIHJC. These include:

- *The Rev. David Bean*, Cherry Park United Methodist Church in Portland, and president of Methodist Federation for Social Action.
- *Tom Burns*, attends St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church and is a health policy expert who advised state legislators on health reform.
- *Rabbi Michael Cahana*, Temple Beth Israel in Portland.
- *Aelea Christofferson*, attends First Presbyterian in Bend, served on the Finance committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board and is a small business owner.
- *Bob Horenstein*, Community Relations Committee director, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.
- *Betty Johnson*, chair of the Corvallis Interfaith Health Network.
- *The Ven. Jim Mosier*, deacon at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Ontario and former Ontario City Council member.
- *Robina Ingram-Rich*, RN, MPH, member of First Christian Church (Disciples) in Portland.
- *Linda Payne*, parish nurse, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Portland.
- *The Rev. John Reutter-Harrah*, pastor, Prince of Life Lutheran Church in Oregon City.
- *Bruce Strade*, executive director of Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries.
- *Barbara Segal*, Providence Health & Services.
- *Priscilla Lewis*, Providence Health & Services.

Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign Web page launched

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon launched a new dedicated OIHJC Web page on the EMO Web site. You can go to the Web page to sign our "Interfaith Statement of Conscience on Health Reform" and access a list of resources available to help work for a more just health care future. Signing the statement of conscience is a way to be sure you receive e-mail announcements about EMO's health reform activities. Please visit the page at www.emoregon.org/healthcare_reform.php.

Fall 2009 critical time for progress on climate justice

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) will continue to step up its efforts to educate and mobilize people of faith on global warming this fall, as the Senate begins debate on a climate bill. Climate legislation passed by the House in June is a step in the right direction, but it needs to be improved—particularly in areas of energy efficiency standards, coal plants, emissions targets and international adaptation.

To sign an interfaith petition regarding these improvements, go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php. A strong climate bill sets a high bar for international climate negotiations. To follow new developments and actions, go to Interfaith Power & Light's action page at www.theregenerationproject.org or subscribe to "Climate and Faith" by sending an e-mail to emo@emoregon.org.

To learn how your congregation can get involved in the Oct. 24 **International Day of Climate Action**, go to www.350.org/people/faith. OIPL is cosponsoring the Coastal Climate Crisis walk, a 350.org event that starts Sept. 20 in Coos Bay and ends on Oct. 24 in Portland. Walkers will convene town hall forums at communities along the coast on how climate change will affect the Oregon coast. If you would like to join the walk, e-mail Phil Carver at philip.carver@comcast.net.

Church World Service is sponsoring the **Countdown to CO₂ PENHAGEN** pledge and postcard campaign. The postcard urges President Obama to attend the December 2009 United Nations Climate Conference, which will negotiate the new global warming agreement. The Kyoto Protocol is set to expire in 2012. To sign the pledge, visit www.churchworldservice.org

EMO's Community Ministries by the numbers

(April through June 2009)

Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial ... Received 19,610 pounds of donated food and supplied three-to five-days worth of groceries to 5,067 individuals (up from 4,151 during the same quarter last year).

Portland International Community School ... During the 2008-2009 school year, the school served a record 62 students.

Russian Oregon Social Services ... Provided 181 Russian-speaking clients with direct services, including assistance to 62 domestic violence/sexual assault clients; 21 women received a free mammogram, 4 clients received rental assistance, 11 dental care, 8 legal assistance and 18 attended ESL classes.

Shared Housing ... Arranged 36 matches, providing 328 months of housing.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees ... Received 58 refugees and asylees from Cuba, Iraq, Burma and the Former Soviet Union.

4 Development & Fundraising

EMO Annual Celebration

Continued from page 1

good. He serves on the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and the Albina Ministerial Alliance and was a past president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Knutson is also committed to building a truly diverse and multicultural community and congregation at Augustana—a 103-year-old congregation with over 700 members. Augustana is a thriving multicultural, multinational, welcoming and affirming church without borders. It has been a Sanctuary congregation since 1996 and is the home of a non-profit collaborative.

Before joining Augustana, Knutson served on the National Council Churches (NCC) Young Adult Ministry Committee and worked with the NCC, World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation to lift up youth delegates for assemblies and meetings.

Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, who passed away tragically in January 2009, will receive posthumously the “Two Pauls Award,” presented in recognition of outstanding promotion of interfaith dialogue, service and relations.

Hirschfield helped establish Congregation P’nai Or in 1996, a welcoming Jewish Renewal community, where he served as rabbi



Photo credit: J. Paramita

The late Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield will be honored with a posthumous “Two Pauls Award” for over 30 years of interfaith work.

until his death. He was passionately involved in interfaith dialogue for over 30 years and was an active member of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland. He took groups to Israel and Palestine to meet with and support individuals and organizations working to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hirschfield was also an internationally-known singer, composer of Jewish liturgical music, storyteller and teacher of Jewish spirituality.

Jubilee Oregon will be honored with the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award,” which recognizes outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all. Jubilee Oregon, a local chapter of Jubilee USA Network, is an all volunteer group committed to fulfilling the Jubilee goal of definitive cancellation of crushing debts to fight poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

“Ecumenical Service Awards”—given in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon—will be presented to **McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity** and **Madras United Methodist Church (UMC)**.

Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to build partnerships among volunteers, families and the community in order to build simple, decent houses with families in need. They connect congregations in the McMinnville area to one another, as well as linking college students to both congregations and “builds” in Central and South America. They are not just building houses, they are building relationship and networks within the faith community.

Madras UMC is the center of a strong, lively ecumenical collaboration among Madras churches, including an emergency food program, community kitchen, garden and other programs. The congregation recently held an event in a public park providing free food, haircuts, medical screening, car washes and more.

Join us!

You can sponsor a table of 10 at the event for \$600. 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 dinner fee. Individual tickets are \$60 each. For reservations, download a Response Card at www.emoregon.org.

The donation of silent auction

items is also welcome. All money raised will go to support EMO and its programs. Donate a weekend at a vacation home, tickets to a show, travel miles or a gift certificate from your favorite service business, restaurant or shop, which can attract new customers and receive free publicity while doing good for our community.

For more information about the event, including sponsorship or auction item donations, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Elizabeth Wetherell Shaklee at (503) 221-1054.

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Board of Directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO’s ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the Spring 2009 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
The Collins Foundation	2009 Annual Fund
Dingo’s Restaurant	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Echo Restaurant	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
The Energy Foundation	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church	Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
Il Piatto Restaurant	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Kiwanis Club of Portland	SOAR Legal Services
Oregon Food Bank	2009 Annual Fund
PGE Foundation	HIV Services
Por Que No Taqueria	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Portland Schools Foundation	Portland International Community School
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
Spirit Mountain Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
Starky’s Restaurant and Bar	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
SubRosa	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
West Café	HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Women’s Care Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
Wright Land Co.	2009 Annual Fund

Honor and memorial gifts

May to mid-August 2009

Gifts in Honor

In honor of the Climate Change Initiative

Martin J. Desmond

In honor of Bonnie J. Groshong

Van Hardison

In honor of Versie Meyer

Linda Buergerl

In honor of G.P. Pardington

Joyce Lew

In honor of Loyd O. Schaad

Duane D. Schaad

In honor of Mark W. Weidkamp

Kenneth M. Weidkamp

Gifts in Memory

In memory of Mary Boos

Richard H. Boos

In memory of Mrs. R. L. Carlson

Celia Carlson

In memory of John Casas

Raymond L. Barnes

In memory of Emeline Davis

Diana B. Baird

In memory of Persephone Camille

Elizabeth Foster-Hunt

Charles W. Hunt

In memory of Lenore Frimoth

Elmer Frimoth

In memory of Amanda Jackson

Patricia M. Bradley

In memory of Geo and Ethel Johnson

Christian P. Heil

In memory of Paula Justice

Clarence J. Justice

In memory of John Lanagan

John B. Marks

In memory of Noel A. Martin

Mary L. Martin

In memory of Roger M. Melrose

Sam Pobanz

In memory of Kay Musgrove

Wayne Musgrove

In memory of Patricia Smith

Dan Blair

In memory of Leo Sorensen

Eileen A. Sorensen

In memory of David S. Swehla

Rebecca Levison

Edward A. Otter

In memory of Dennis Tollenaar

Laurie A. Followell

In memory of Katherine Weidkamp

Richard A. Brown

Help EMO reach the goal of raising \$70,000 for the Collins Foundation challenge grant. Double your gift today!

All gifts to EMO will be matched 100 percent by the Collins Foundation.

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\$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please send your gift to:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, OR 97239. You may also make a credit card donation over the phone by calling EMO at (503) 221-1054 or make a secure on-line credit card donation at www.emoregon.org.