

May 2023
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Report to
Willamette Quarterly Meeting

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.” -Desmond Tutu

This quote from Desmond Tutu is an inspiration for the many programs of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Some programs are “upstream”, such as: Advocacy and Public Policy; and others: Downstream, such as: Food Services, HIV Services, Refugee Services, Second Home, and more.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Northeast Emergency Food Program continues to provide food for 8,000 people per month. Slavic Oregon Social Services and Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees provide a variety of legal and social services to the immigrant and refugee communities. Second Home gives houseless teens a place to live and support services so that they can succeed in high school graduation.

Our new President, Frank So, comes to E.M.O. with a background in international diplomatic service, including recent service on Kamala Harris’ staff. Frank was raised in Portland by a mother from Peru and a father from Thailand. Frank shares with the Board a desire to grow the activities of E.M.O. throughout the state, beyond the greater Portland area.

Advocacy programs of E.M.O. engage local volunteers and staff with legislative policies including, immigration, housing, civil rights, and creation justice.

On May 16, 2023, E.M.O. board members had the opportunity to meet and share conversation with Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu!!!!!!