

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Workshop to help congregations create and maintain community gardens
Build connections with your community, reduce hunger and steward creation**

What: *“Community Gardens for Congregations Workshop”*—Come learn what it takes to create, expand or renew a community garden that will build connections with your community, reduce hunger and steward creation. Speakers include Leslie Pohl-Kosbau of Shared Gardens and former director of Portland Community Gardens; representatives of diverse congregation-hosted community gardens; and representatives of natural resource agencies. Learn about the successes and challenges of community gardens, partnering with other organizations and ensuring sustainability over the long-run. The first 30 people to attend will get gift certificates for The Garden Corner in Tualatin. There will also be a raffle for garden prizes, including a cubic yard of high quality compost from Rexius. The workshop is open to all and there is a suggested \$5-15 donation for the workshop. To register, call [\(503\) 221-1054](tel:(503)221-1054) or send an e-mail to foodandfaith@emoregon.org. Details are available at www.emoregon.org.

Who: The workshop is sponsored by the [Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership](#) of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Tualatin United Methodist Church.

When: Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Tualatin United Methodist Church, 20200 SW Martinazzi Ave, Tualatin, Ore.

Why: The interest in and need for community gardens continues to grow. Congregations in suburban areas often have significant areas of land that could be used to enable neighbors to garden who lack land or who want to benefit from the social interaction and opportunities for learning that community gardens provide. Community gardens are also important to fighting hunger and improving nutrition. This workshop provides education, resources, and connections to help congregations and their community partners create and maintain community gardens that produce multiple benefits.

The mission of the Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership is to empower faith communities, farmers and neighborhoods to build rural-urban alliances and create innovative partnerships for just and sustainable food systems that promote community health. EMO 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.