

## THE 2009 MUCC DIVERSITY AWARD

Introduction to Worship by Nancy Rogene

Today we celebrate the radiant diversity of God's creation. We rejoice in the riotous collections of colors which express the joy of being alive on Planet Earth. At the same time, we cry out against the abuse of diversity, against the ways in which differences between human beings are used to oppress and reject those who seem "different" to us.

Here at Frog Pond, we follow in the footsteps of the Hebrew prophets who envisioned a God of righteousness and justice. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus who commands us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and free the captives. Human beings who are victims of unjust treatment represent one kind of "captive."

Today, as we celebrate the life, work, and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we lift our voices on behalf of all who are the victims of trauma, catastrophe, and injustice.

Today and every day:

We cry out for all people who struggle against violence, poverty and rejection.

We cry out for those in Portland, America, and all over the world who are poor and economically oppressed.

We cry out for those who are stigmatized because of their religion or their ethnicity.

We cry out for those who are stigmatized because of their race.

We cry out for those who are rejected because they are gay, lesbian, or transgendered.

We cry out on behalf of people all over the world who are displaced, who are refugees, who have lost their homes because of war and political turmoil.

We cry out for those who are victims of torture.

We rage against the exploitation of children, boys, girls, and women through the practices of sexual trafficking.

We cry out for those who are physically handicapped or challenged.

We cry out for those who struggle with mental illness and the stigma society places on them.

We cry out for those who live with physical handicaps in an insensitive world.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to creating a humane and just society which, in the words of the prophet Amos, so often quoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a society in which justice will roll down like water, and righteousness, like a mighty stream.”

## **2009 DIVERSITY AWARD**

**Every January, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the members of Meridian United Church of Christ honor an Oregonian whose life and work fulfill the Biblical mandate to create just and compassionate human societies.**

**This year we are honored to present our annual Diversity Award to David Kinzie. Dr. Kinzie is a world-renowned psychiatrist whose work in the field of Intercultural Psychiatry has blazed new trails. In the mid 1970s, Dr. Kinzie founded the Intercultural Psychiatric Program at Oregon Health Sciences University. Later, in the mid 1990s, he was able to obtain funding for a Torture Treatment Center for refugees who have survived the massive traumas of torture.**

**Dr. Kinzie received his medical degree from the University of Washington before going on to specialize in the field of Intercultural Psychiatry. To that end, Dr. Kinzie worked and studied in Malaysia and Hawaii.**

**The Intercultural Psychiatric Program at OHSU now has over 1200 patients, 10 psychiatrists, 18 counselors and treats patients who have arrived in Oregon from such far-flung places as Cambodia, Somalia, Kenya, Laos, Guatemala and Bosnia. Services are offered in over 12 different languages.**

**Dr. Kinzie's work is groundbreaking because it offers services to those who are marginalized: international refugees, those who have been displaced through political turmoil and war; and those who still bear the emotional and psychiatric scars of man's violence to man.**