



ASSOCIATION OF  
MUSLIM  
CHAPLAINS

*ANNUAL REPORT*

2023



## ***As-Salaamu 'Alaikum, Peace and Blessings,***

The Association of Muslim Chaplains is dedicated to supporting Muslim chaplains and advancing the field of Islamic chaplaincy. This year's Annual Report presents the dynamism and quality of the events and services AMC has provided in the past year. Our 230+ members serve in all fields of chaplaincy including corrections, education, healthcare, military, and community (through institutions from police departments to masjids) across the USA. As the only national professional association for Muslim chaplains, we continue to provide the invaluable service of training and nurturing the Muslim spiritual care workers of this country.

In the latter part of 2023, many Muslims experienced discrimination or Islamophobia as a result of the conflict in Gaza. Nevertheless, we have continued to provide excellence in service, with multiple channels of support, including webinars and online training, monthly cohort huddles, research on issues related to Islamic Chaplaincy and the spiritual care needs of Muslims, and more.

In July 2023 we held a rejuvenating chaplains' retreat in the beautiful lakeside location of Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Attendees learned, worshipped, reflected, connected, and recharged spiritually.

Events like this encapsulate what AMC is about and remind us that as an organization we are only as good as our members. Our members, our chaplains, are the best of us. They serve others with rahmah, intelligence, discretion, and wisdom. By cultivating their skills, nurturing their spirits, and supporting their professional endeavors, we help them provide the best spiritual care possible to the people they serve.

We seek Allah's forgiveness for any shortcomings we may have had; we give thanks to Allah for that which has been bestowed upon us; and we ask for your prayers as we move into 2024 together.

Your Humble Servants,

### ***The Executive Board of the Association of Muslim Chaplains***

***President*** Ch. Dr. Joshua Salaam

***Secretary*** Ch. Najila Faizi

***Treasurer*** Ch. Ust. Nadeem Siddiqi

***VP of Healthcare*** Ch. Zoya Mirza

***VP of Corrections*** Ch. Salahuddin Muhammad

***VP of Community*** Ch. Lauren Schreiber

***VP of Education*** Ch. Najiba Akbar

***VP of Military*** Ch. Maj. Ryan Carter

***Membership Chair*** Ch. Jaye Starr

***Professional Development Chair*** Ch. Mira Abou Elezz

***Communications Chair*** Ch. Usama Malik

***Endorsement Committee Chair*** Imam Dr. Salahuddin M. Muhammad

***Research Committee Chair*** Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid





## 2023 Executive Board Retreat

In December of 2022 the AMC board gathered at the Washinton Retreat House in Washington, DC for two days of strategic planning. Three primary goals were developed:



I. Create a network of 15 vetted AMC chaplains across 5 regions that will engage 15 Muslim communities, 5 conferences, 3 philanthropies about Islamic chaplaincy per year. 3-year goal

II. Build formalized partnerships with 4 professional organizations (i.e. ACPE, APC, NAJC, NACC, ACSLHE, CIL) that will result in conference and speaking invitations to advance the inclusion of Muslim chaplains and Islamic chaplaincy in the larger scene of professional chaplaincy development. Also, establish relationships with 3 institutions that offer Islamic science courses to increase the knowledge of our members. 2-year goal

III. Develop a resource (pamphlet/hiring) guide, for each of the 5 areas of chaplaincy, with recommendations about skills, qualifications, and competencies for hiring a Muslim chaplain. 1-year goal

IV. Establish a '3-year Goal' Sub-Committee with one board member to chair. Oversight and accountability purposes, thought partners

Partnership collaboration and speaker identification have been a significant focus in the time since. AMC has been represented on two task forces with the Association of Professional Chaplains, Association of Clinical Pastoral Educators, Canadian Association of Chaplains and Spiritual Care Providers, National Association of Catholic Chaplains, and the National Association of Jewish Chaplains. The first has been examining religious bias in professional chaplaincy spaces (i.e. clinical pastoral education training, graduate education, and chaplain to chaplain in the work environment) and the second is a newer initiative still in formative development but that AMC joined in an effort to include Muslim voices and perspectives and to see our membership better supported as we grapple with the challenges since October 7th. Additionally, APC has formed a Common Council with 18 chaplaincy related groups (professional associations as well as endorsement bodies) that AMC is establishing relationships with.

As we've begun fundraising initiatives we've been tapping into our membership body to lift up voices beyond the board and look forward to continuing to do so.

## Financial Summary:

AMC's financial position for 2023 was positively impacted by an increase of fundraising with both benefit dinners and a generous grant awarded. Expenses also increased with many first-time activities including our first annual retreat and two fundraising dinners, as well as payroll for our first-ever staff member. The January 2024 AMC Virtual Conference incurred additional costs such as honorariums, streaming expenses, and event staff assistance.

Association of Muslim Chaplains											
Statement of Activity											
January - October, 2023											
	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUN 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	TOTAL
<b>Revenue</b>											
Benefit Dinner Donations								21.08	1,019.56		\$1,040.64
Donations and Grants	1,260.56	171.38	692.72	1,584.20	50,837.02	1,693.54	10,548.03	5,165.22	3,523.22	9,778.25	\$85,254.14
Refunds							-773.00				\$ -773.00
Retreat Income				230.53		16,805.95	1,288.60				\$18,325.08
Uncategorized Income										525.00	\$525.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,260.56</b>	<b>\$171.38</b>	<b>\$692.72</b>	<b>\$1,814.73</b>	<b>\$50,837.02</b>	<b>\$18,499.49</b>	<b>\$11,063.63</b>	<b>\$5,186.30</b>	<b>\$4,542.78</b>	<b>\$10,303.25</b>	<b>\$104,371.86</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$1,260.56</b>	<b>\$171.38</b>	<b>\$692.72</b>	<b>\$1,814.73</b>	<b>\$50,837.02</b>	<b>\$18,499.49</b>	<b>\$11,063.63</b>	<b>\$5,186.30</b>	<b>\$4,542.78</b>	<b>\$10,303.25</b>	<b>\$104,371.86</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>											
Advertising & Marketing					809.53	1,000.00		550.00			\$2,359.53
Bank Charges & Fees										2.97	\$2.97
Conference Expenses					16,828.79		16,270.21		294.35		\$33,393.35
Legal & Professional Services			552.50								\$552.50
Mello Service Fees							4.50	1.50			\$6.00
Office Supplies & Software	1,412.64	21.20					21.20		371.16	260.89	\$2,087.09
PayPal Fees				11.59		200.31	37.72	15.00	93.68		\$358.30
Payroll Fees						387.57	387.57	127.86			\$903.00
Payroll Taxes					220.32	494.93	321.09	286.88	296.88	286.88	\$1,896.96
Salaries					1,875.00	4,300.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	\$21,175.00
Stripe fees	39.59	20.96	45.40	90.05	32.29	622.32	71.61	36.87	134.50	57.81	\$1,151.40
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,452.23</b>	<b>\$594.86</b>	<b>\$45.40</b>	<b>\$101.84</b>	<b>\$19,785.93</b>	<b>\$7,005.13</b>	<b>\$20,863.90</b>	<b>\$4,768.11</b>	<b>\$4,990.67</b>	<b>\$4,358.55</b>	<b>\$63,886.12</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -191.67</b>	<b>\$ -423.28</b>	<b>\$647.32</b>	<b>\$1,713.09</b>	<b>\$31,071.09</b>	<b>\$11,494.36</b>	<b>\$ -8,800.27</b>	<b>\$418.19</b>	<b>\$ -387.79</b>	<b>\$5,944.70</b>	<b>\$40,485.74</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -191.67</b>	<b>\$ -423.28</b>	<b>\$647.32</b>	<b>\$1,713.09</b>	<b>\$31,071.09</b>	<b>\$11,494.36</b>	<b>\$ -8,800.27</b>	<b>\$418.19</b>	<b>\$ -387.79</b>	<b>\$5,944.70</b>	<b>\$40,485.74</b>

## Future Considerations:

AMC was awarded a grant by the Waraich Family Foundation for \$50,000 in 2023 which was generously renewed for the 2024 fiscal year. With plans for growth to meet our organization's ongoing goals and the needs of our constituency, AMC is intensifying fundraising efforts in 2024. Strategic planning includes strengthening AMC's Development Team with additional members, increased collaboration, and securing additional grants.





# COHORT REPORTS

## Community

- Held a Ramadan Check-In
- Facilitated a Community Healing Circle for AMC members in December 2023



## Military

- July: Huddle
- Sept: Huddle

### Highlights & Initiatives:

- Military Qur'an edition (to be started in Jan 2024)
- Canadian-US engagement: Chaplain Tamer planned special visit to the Royal Military College (set for Nov 2023, delayed due to deployment)
- Ramadan engagement: collection of photos of Muslim chaplains supporting





## Corrections

- February: Check-in Huddle
- March: Ramadan preparation Huddle
- April: Huddle and interview with Associate Professor Dr. Melanie E. Trexler for Roanoke College. Discussed the Muslim Prisoner experience and more.
- May: Huddle
- June: Huddle
- July: Huddle
- August: Huddle
- September: Huddle and interview with Abdul Samad, Research Fellow Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy discussing the role of Muslim Chaplains in prison and other topics
- October: Huddle
- November: Huddle
- December: Huddle to talk about AMC Conference

*AMC members enjoyed the opportunity to connect in person at a Federal Bureau of Prisons training in West Virginia*





## Education

### National Advocacy

AMC partook in two different collaborations with the White House Taskforce on Islamophobia and Antisemitism. The first, held on August 9th 2023 was with the U.S. Department of Education, and highlighted the structural nature of Islamophobia in institutional settings and the need to address mental health repercussions of bullying and Islamophobia on college students. In addition, AMC emphasized how the weaponization of antisemitism is used to target Muslims and advocated for the protection of faculty and staff's freedom of speech. The second, the session was convened specifically to understand the unique manifestations of Islamophobia taking place after October 7th 2023 and how to effectively combat these on a local and national scale.

### Monthly Huddles

Education Chaplains met for monthly huddles to discuss important issues affecting our campuses and students, share opportunities for growth and support one another in addressing challenges. Past monthly huddle topics include:

- Habits of Successful Chaplains
- Advocating for Student Needs and Sharing Ramadan Resources
- "Ramadan Nutrition" with SPECIAL GUEST Samiha Azgar, a PhD candidate at Cornell University studying Human Nutrition
- Graduation and End of the Year Ceremonies
- Institutional and Chaplaincy Responses to the Situation in Palestine
- Sharing Resources for Our Students Related to Activism/Advocacy



*AMC Education Chaplains from across the country attend the 2024 ACSLHE Conference titled "Rebirth and Renewal" in California from February 4-6th.*

## Healthcare

### Huddles & Chat Group

While the pace of group communications has diminished since the peak days of COVID, the cohort remains active in WhatsApp and has just resumed regular huddles after a lull. The initiatives of individual chaplains continue to inspire others in the cohort to further build out their programming for Muslim patients, visitors, and staff including around responding to what is happening to Palestinians. Importantly, it has also given cohort members a space to speak freely of their own pain and frustration.

### Ramadan Resource Collaboration

The cohort collaborated to produce an infographic and a more extensive flyer that could be adapted by members for use in their respective institutions. A suggested list for hospital gift shops was also compiled along with newsletter messaging support.

### CPE Support Group

Since 2021 AMC has run a support group for students participating in clinical pastoral education with the twin goals of providing a safe space to process being Muslim in CPE and to help them dive deeper into the deen. Efforts are supported by a group of CPE trained mentors (currently Khurram Ahmed, Sakinah Alhabshi and Jaye Starr) and strives to have bi-weekly huddles. It has had mixed success to date and is currently focusing on trying to build group relationships rather than individual mentor support.





## Themes in Muslim Patient Care

Over the summer of 2023 the cohort convened a series of conversations to identify themes in Muslim patient care looking at the various manifestations and impacts. In August these were presented to the White House Task Force on Antisemitism and Islamophobia along with our partners at the National Association of Jewish Chaplains. In February 2024, members of the cohort presented the findings during a poster session at the American Muslim Health Professionals conference held in Baltimore. We are excited to develop this project further and hope to create case studies for training and collaborate with researchers to better understand their intricacies.

## Islamic Bioethics

Approximately a dozen members participated in a certificate class offered in Islamic Bioethics through the Initiative on Islam and Medicine during 2023. With a reading list that harkened back to our seminary days, the encouragement, discussions and reading summaries provided in the group helped make the class more accessible and enjoyable.







# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Research Committee

In September of 2020 AMC launched a research committee to support, conduct, and direct research on issues related to Islamic chaplaincy and the spiritual care needs of Muslims. The committee chair, **Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid** and current members are **Chs. Eric Bridges, Amir Duric, Syazana Durrani, and Leenah Safi**. The committee would welcome others to join.

### Activities:

#### 1. Oral History Project

- a. **Ch. Leenah Safi** conducted an interview with **Ch. Dr. Mukhtar Curtis** (*Allah Yerhamo*) in December 2022, Dr. Curtis returned to Allah on February 9th 2024.
- b. With the help of **Chs. Mustafa Boz** and **Leenah Safi**, we were able to support the publications of Dr. Curtis' book *Mukhtar Nine: A Path Towards Islamic Masculinity*, based on *The Mukhtar Nine* corrections curriculum published by Dr. Mario Wallace.

#### 2. Research

- a. Drawing on AMC's research with Boston University, initially a mapping project which expanded into 20 in-depth interviews, two papers were published that provide significant insight to the ways Muslim healthcare chaplains navigate and understand their work. The first argues that the Christian hegemony often masked by "spiritual care" discourse and educational practice impels Muslim chaplains to critically evaluate, recover, and adapt traditional sources integral to the professional development of contemporary American Muslim religious leaders. The second examines the practice of these chaplains in relation to *al-fiqh al-waqi'* (contextual jurisprudence), and contends that the experiential epistemology of Muslim health care chaplains in ministry to those who are suffering speaks to efforts to recover an Islamic philosophical and theoretical heritage of psychological healing.
- b. "Muslim Chaplains in the Clinical Borderlands: Authority, Function, and Identity" was published by Professor Lance Laird and Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Masjid in the *Journal of Religion and Health* (August 2022)
- c. "Encountering God, accompanying others: Spirituality and theology among Muslim healthcare chaplains" was published in *Spirituality in Clinical Practice* (March 2023)

Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid conducted a presentation on the first paper at the Conference on Medicine and Religion in Columbus, Ohio in 2023



## Development Committee

AMC held its first ever in-person fundraising dinner on August 31st 2023 in the Greater Chicago area during the 2023 ISNA Convention weekend. The event featured Keynote Speaker **Dr. Ingrid Mattson** with additional remarks from **Chs. Muhammad Ali, Nadeem Siddiqi, Jaye Starr, Dilnaz Waraich**. Approximately \$16k was raised and it provided an important opportunity for chaplains attending the ISNA convention to connect and learn more about AMC.



On October 28th 2023 AMC held a fundraising dinner in Orange County, California featuring guest speakers **Chs. Abdulshaq AbdulHafiz, Rushdan Mujahid-Deen, and Adeel Zeb** with **Shaykha Emaan Ahmed**.

The night was closed testimonial on the benefits of chaplaincy on campus from student **Tariq Razi**. The fundraiser totaled approximately \$11k.





## Membership Committee

AMC has remained a consistent 230 members over the past two years: while many new members did join, several dozen left chaplaincy all together for various reasons. As we come out of the pandemic we celebrate the fullness of our membership with more in-person gatherings. Regional groups have begun to form and we are especially grateful to Bayan Islamic Graduate School's invitation to several of their banquets over 2023 which provided valuable opportunities for members to connect - many for the first time.

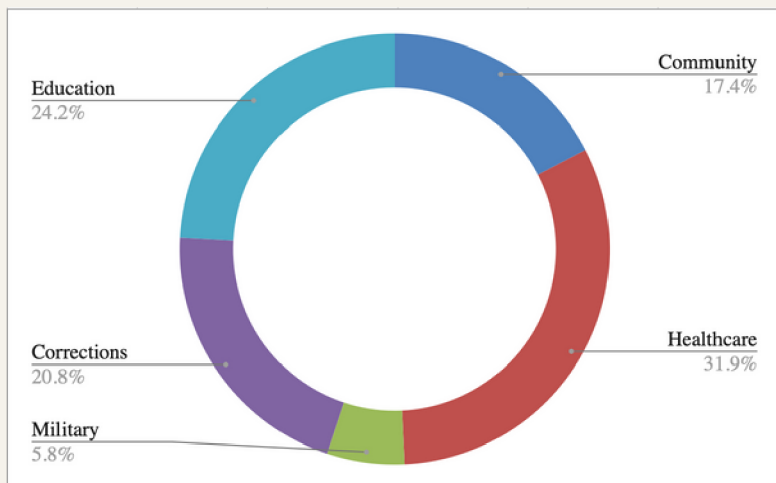
As the Annual Report goes to print we are preparing for two significant changes:

1) We will begin enrolling Canadian chaplains as full members:

The expansion to support Canadian chaplains has long been in the works and we are looking forward to what we will be able to do together advancing the field of Islamic chaplaincy in North America. While there is much our two countries have in common, there are also valuable differences in the spiritual care landscape and we pray that Allah will facilitate the tremendous benefit we anticipate from this collaboration, insha'Allah.

2) We will be changing our database management platform for tracking members from EveryAction to Zeffy:

This switch will allow for automated renewal and a more user-friendly interface on both the front and backend. With Zeffy in place, insha'Allah, we look forward to launching our first significant member recruitment drive in several years.



## *Professional Development Committee*

AMC collaborated with Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains to host a program titled “Chaplains of the Book: Day of Dialogue” in March 2023 exploring pastoral care in our respective traditions. Approximately 20 chaplains participated, and topics included an exploration of our shared challenges in the institutions where we serve, advocacy for our people, and the role of religion in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. **Ch. Dr. Bilal Ansari** and Rabbi Deena Grant led a textual study, and small groups discussed case studies. We are grateful for the efforts of **Ch. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh** & Rabbi Neal Loewinger in organizing this program, and for the support, hosting and funding from Hartford International University to make it possible.

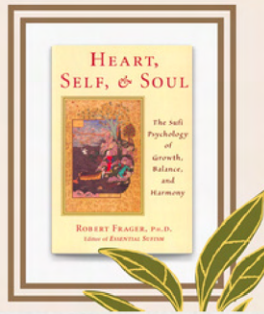







## BOOK CLUB

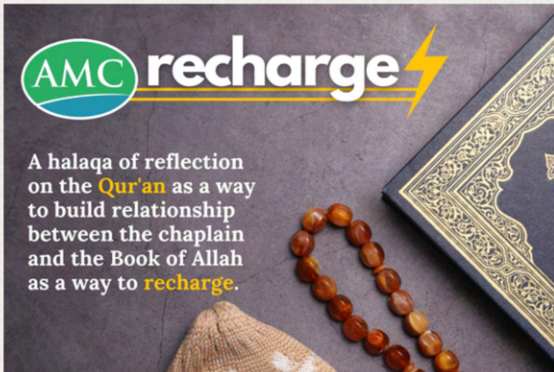
Register Here!



In 2022 we gathered as AMC members through Ramadan for reflective programs and we collaborated with Islamic Relief USA to host disaster chaplaincy trainings in Detroit and Chicago, and with the Peaceful Families Project to provide a four hour virtual training around addressing domestic violence in recognition of October's Domestic Violence Month.



A halaqa of reflection on the **Qur'an** as a way to build relationship between the chaplain and the Book of Allah as a way to **recharge**.



In response to members' requests to learn how trans persons identify spiritual care needs, Tynan Power provided a webinar in May. During October 2022 - January 2023, Ch. Ariz Saleem facilitated a book group reading, the Heart, Self, & Soul Book Club that invited chaplains from across different cohorts to engage with the text and explore its relationship to chaplaincy.



**WEBINAR | FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AT WORK**  
FEB 21 | 12 P EST | ZOOM

**GUEST PRESENTERS**



**GADER ABBAAS** - CAIR DEPUTY LITIGATION DIRECTOR  
**KIMBERLY NOCK-LEHENBAUER** - CAIR STAFF ATTORNEY



REGISTER AT [TINYURL.COM/CAIR-AMC-WEBINAR](https://tinyurl.com/cair-amc-webinar)

Ch. Fayeze Khwaja convened a Qur'an Recharge halaqa that meet bi-weekly from December 2022 - July 2023 bringing chaplains from across cohorts together and providing a wonderful opportunity to remember the foundations of our work. In February 2024 we were joined by representatives from CAIR to provide important guidance to our members navigating pro-Palestinian advocacy.



# ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM CHAPLAINS



AMC ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM CHAPLAINS

1ST ANNUAL  
**SOHAIB SULTAN**  
**Suhba**  
CHAPLAINS' RETREAT

**JULY 13-16**  
CONFERENCE RETREAT CENTER  
GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE  
WILLIAMS BAY, WI





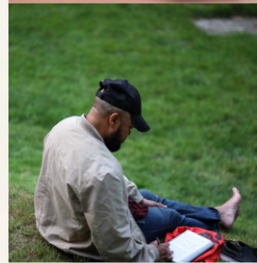
## Retreat Recap

In March of 2020 as the world shut down for COVID, newly elected AMC president **Ch. Sohaib Sultan** convened a members' huddle to check in. People shared vulnerably of their fears, the early impacts of isolation, and what they were doing to care for their congregations and their selves. During that gathering Sohaib named his intentions to convene a retreat once it was safe to gather again.

A month later he was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed the presidency to **Ch. Dr. Nisa Muhammad**, but the vision he'd planted took roots and was an important source of hope for members through the long pandemic - indeed the healthcare cohort had more than one conversation about which of our favorite foods we'd share when we could finally gather.

Sadly, Sohaib died before it had become safe to hold such a gathering but his legacy filled the space when we finally gathered July of 2023 in Wisconsin. Sohaib and his wife Arshe were rarely apart and their deep love of children and respect for elders were integral thoughts shaping the program as we welcomed families to join for the two and a half day program.

Throughout the weekend he was close in our hearts: Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans' talk focused on grief in an Islamic paradigm sharing beautiful stories of Sohaib as did **Ch. Abdul-Malik Ryan** during his khutba. His love of nasheeds was present around the camp fire and during the open mic night. Children were in and out of all of the programs and an awesome collective effort allowed us to support our youth with special needs as well. We are especially grateful for the efforts of Malika and Asiyah Ayubbi, Gina Smith, Kristen Haley helping to organize activities for them and **Ch. Mustafa Boz** who helped them run out their energy playing in the sun.







**Ch. Muhammed Aslan** brought a wonderful Turkish tea and coffee spread that kept discussion going late into the night, **Ch. Dilnaz Waraich** and **Ch. Sidra Mahmood's** post-fair hikes and **Ch. Rabia Harris'** dhikr circles got us up and going equally early. **Ch. Nadeem Siddiqi** spent a generous amount of time on the water providing opportunities for people take boat rides.

One of Sohaib's favorite things to do was to sit by the water and contemplate Allah, throughout the retreat we emphasized that people should take advantage of the beautiful space and tend to their needs only joining in for programming where it felt that was what they needed. Ch. Nadeem took the lead on a series of programs reflective programming exploring Qur'an and hadith, Ch. Rabia also provided one for this track exploring the 99 names of Allah.



**Ch. Jaye Starr** took the lead on a series of reflective activities that allowed the group to establish relationships while providing tools that chaplains could take back to their work. We were blessed to be joined by world renowned Qur'an reciter Sanaullah Habib. Our education and healthcare cohorts enjoyed the opportunity to have huddles. **Ch. Lauren Schreiber** provided opening and closing activities that helped build suhba and center shukr - we were especially grateful that the tornado sirens were not accompanied by an actual tornado.



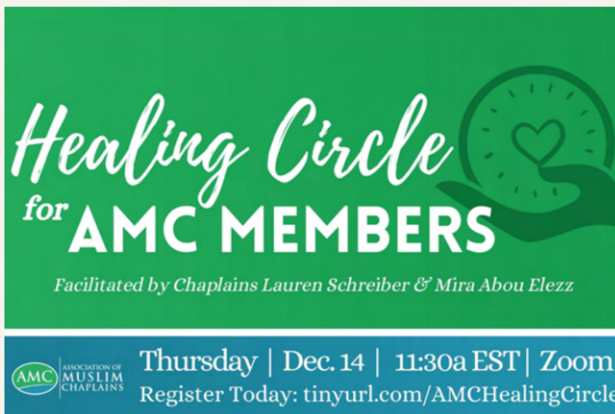
We are grateful to the logistics support from Operations Manager Karim Hakim, to the George Williams College's team, and to the Interantional Instittue of Islamic Thought and Hartford International University for their sponsorship of the event. Please lift up Br. Ashraf Ali in your dua for the beautiful website and retreat poster that provided even those unable to attend with a visual retreat all the same and **Ch. Usama Malik** for the beautiful photo documentation masha'Allah. We pray the annual retreat may grow and be a sadaqah jariyah for Sohaib.



## Supporting Chaplains Supporting Palestinians

The end of 2023 and the start of 2024 have held some of the most public and contested experiences that Muslim chaplains post-9/11. Although AMC has room for growth in providing institutional level support during highly contentious times, our cohorts provided much support peer-to-peer.

- In December 2023, **Chs. Mira Abou Elezz** and **Lauren Schreiber** hosted a virtual healing circle for members
- National recognized trauma experts Drs. James McCarty and Shelly Rambo presented the keynote session at the AMC virtual conference
- We also had sessions on the leadership efforts of campus chaplains, navigating interfaith partnerships during conflict, organizing healing circles, trauma informed care and somatic healing
- In November 2023 AMC representatives joined the Strategic Partners forming a Task Force to collaborate around supporting Muslim and Jewish chaplains
- In February 2024 CAIR legal experts provided guidance for chaplains about their legal rights
- Many chaplains found themselves inspired and empowered by the work of their AMC peers. Healthcare chaplains formed programs in their respective institutions modeled after what they saw others doing, education chaplains collaborated on events together, government chaplains found solace in safer places to speak with colleagues and resources were shared between cohorts



The graphic features a green background with white text. The main title 'Healing Circle' is in a large, elegant script font, with 'for AMC MEMBERS' in a bold, sans-serif font below it. To the right is a circular icon containing a heart and a hand. Below the title, it says 'Facilitated by Chaplains Lauren Schreiber & Mira Abou Elezz'. At the bottom left is the AMC logo, and at the bottom right is the event information: 'Thursday | Dec. 14 | 11:30a EST | Zoom' and 'Register Today: [tinyurl.com/AMCHealingCircle](https://tinyurl.com/AMCHealingCircle)'.

*Healing Circle*  
for **AMC MEMBERS**

*Facilitated by Chaplains Lauren Schreiber & Mira Abou Elezz*

AMC ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM CHAPLAINS

Thursday | Dec. 14 | 11:30a EST | Zoom  
Register Today: [tinyurl.com/AMCHealingCircle](https://tinyurl.com/AMCHealingCircle)



## Conference: *Integrating Faith & Practice*

January 12-14, 2024 AMC convened our 3rd virtual members' conference featuring over thirty sessions many of which explored the conference theme Integrating Faith and Practice. Occurring as we approached 100 days of bloodshed in the Holy Lands, the conference provided an important opportunity to gather to learn about unique chaplaincy needs during this crisis, to reflect on the importance of our faith in sustaining us, and also to be in companionship with those who understand intimately the challenges facing Muslim chaplains today.

Friday night's in-gathering led by **Ch. Najiba Akbar** helped set the tone for the program, Saturday's keynote from Dr. Shelly Rambo and Dr. James McCarty provided important knowledge and skills to navigate the traumas our communities are facing, and Sunday's closing keynote from **Ch. Ailya Vajid** provided some somatic healing practices rooted in Islam to send us off in greater peace than most of us had arrived.

With 6-7 sessions running parallel at a time, the **180+ participants** had the option to choose sessions aligned with their interests. For the first time, we introduced student presentations with students from Bayan Islamic Graduate School and The Islamic Seminary of America. The virtual bazaar again proved an opportunity for attendees to connect with sponsors and learn more about their services. During the gathering we also held AMC's Annual Meeting which provided the opportunity for members to engage with the board – we also heard that we'd neglected to include enough time for this and look forward to more significant time slot in the future. **Chs. Tahara Akmal** and **Jaye Starr** were the recipients of this year's AMC Distinguished Service Awards, Tahara for her contributions to the field of Islamic chaplaincy and Jaye for her service to AMC.

We were honored to have among our invited guests colleagues from the Association of Clinical Pastoral Educators, Association of Professional Chaplains, Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, National Association of Catholic Chaplains, North American Hindu Chaplains Association, Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains, and Transforming Chaplaincy.

What does it take to run a virtual conference of this size? Pictured here is the central command office of **Ch. Usama Malik** who, along with Operations Manager Karim Hakim, Program Assistant Keith Brown and and Conference Chair **Ch. Jaye Starr**, logged approximately 500 hours to put the program together start to finish.

We are grateful to Ch. Rasheed Rabbi for his 2.5 page conference write up that ran in Islamic Horizon's Magazine.

THE ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM CHAPLAINS PRESENTS

2024 AMC MEMBERS CONFERENCE F JAN 12-14

# INTEGRATING & I practice

HOSTED VIRTUALLY ON hopin AMC MUSLIM CHAPLAINS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM  
MUSLIMCHAPLAINS.NET/CONFERENCE

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS  
We sincerely appreciate the contributions and support of our sponsors in helping make this conference a reality. Please take a moment to see all the great organizations and institutions that helped make this event possible.

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AMC MEMBERS CONFERENCE 2024 INTEGRATING FAITH & PRACTICE

KEYNOTE ANNOUNCEMENT

**SHELLY RAMBO & JAMES MCCARTY**  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
"Caring for Communities in Times of Trauma"

**AILYA VAJID**  
CHAPLAIN, PASTORAL COUNSELOR & HOLISTIC HEALER  
"Islamic Approaches to Somatic Healing"

AMC MUSLIM CHAPLAINS JANUARY 12-14 | VIRTUAL FOR REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION MUSLIMCHAPLAINS.NET/CONFERENCE



# OUT & ABOUT



## AMC @ HIU's 20th Anniversary for Islamic Chaplaincy Program

In September of 2022 many AMC members attended and participated in Hartford International University's celebration for 20 years of Islamic Chaplaincy education.

The event featured panel discussions of alumni and current students (and included **Chs. Usama Malik, Lauren Schreiber, Jaye Starr** and **Ch. Dr. Nisa Muhammad**) as well as a reflective conversation between **Ch. Dr. Bilal Ansari** (current Director) and Dr. Ingrid Mattson (Founder and Former Director). **Ch. Dr. Joshua Salaam** provided the jummah khutba, and an ice cream reception was provided for AMC members following the planting of a tree in honor of former AMC President **Ch. Sohaib Sultan** (may God have mercy on him) with his family.



## AMC @ Bayan Islamic Graduate School

A generous donor sponsored a table for AMC at Bayan's April 2023 Gala in Chicago and Bayan subsequently provided complimentary tables at three Texas galas in September. These provided wonderful opportunities for AMC members to connect and strengthen relationships and helped to recruit new members.



## AMC @ ISNA 2023 Convention and with The Islamic Seminary of America

Many AMC members gathered at ISNA's 2023 Chicago chaplaincy training organized by the leadership of the Muslim Endorsement Council and for the subsequent convention. **Ch. Muhammed Aslan's** advocacy on the planning committee helped to have many chaplains included in the college student track of programs and **AMC** helped to arrange for *Three Chaplains* to screen and to promote it on site. **Ch. Jaye Starr** provided remarks on behalf of AMC at TISA's fundraising brunch on site and, in addition to the dinner organized by the fundraising committee, AMC members also enjoyed lunch together on Friday.

We are grateful for the efforts ISNA has made to spotlight chaplaincy including a two-page conference write up in the March 2023 Horizons.

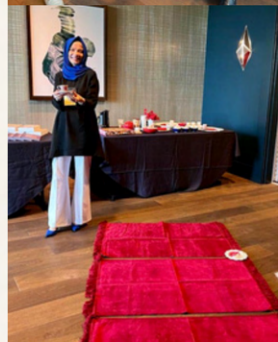




## AMC @ the Association of Professional Chaplains Conference

For the first time in many years, the Association of Muslim Chaplains was formally represented at the Association of Professional Chaplains Conference held in Houston during June 2023 by **Ch. Jaye Starr** thanks to a grant from the Well Springs Chaplaincy Initiative that covered travel costs. This provided an important opportunity to elevate the knowledge of AMC and Muslim chaplains among the chaplains and institutions present. While there, Jaye met with John Haward (Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care Providers) to discuss their upcoming CPE program for Muslims in Toronto and give thanks to Rabbis Kaprow & Ozarowski for their support of AMC as they transition out of their leadership roles at Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains. She also advocated for the needs of Muslim chaplains to be taken into consideration by the APC board certification committee in their development of an interview rubrics, discussed concerns about the ways CPE, while essential for chaplaincy, routinely fails religious minorities, and provided the closing prayer for Sunday's worship service.

Also convened on site was the first meeting of the Common Council bringing together 18 professional chaplaincy organizations that AMC looks to collaborate with in the future. Thanks to **Ch. Kuaybe Noor** who volunteered on the APC conference committee, the event had a lovely Muslim prayer room set up with Turkish coffee and resources that was visited by many. A number of chaplains inquired about hiring Muslim chaplains at their institutions, and several educators reached out for resources and guidance to better support their Muslim participants. The event also helped to recruit several new members through direct contact as well as conversation with their colleagues. The Board Certification conferment of **Chs. Tuba Alpat** and **Ibrahim Oladejo** were also loudly cheered. We welcomed the opportunity to connect with Sr. Shazeedah Khan who was onsite representing AMC's partner, the Muslim Endorsement Council.



# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS





## Three Chaplains Collaboration

Veterans Day week in 2023 saw the public premier of *Three Chaplains*, a documentary featuring AMC members **Capt. Saleha Jabeen**, **Maj. Rafael Lantigua**, and **Col. Dr. Khallid Shabazz**, nationwide on PBS. Directed by David Washburn who co-produced the piece with Razi Jafri, the film goes inside the armed forces to reveal how these chaplains practice, teach, and share their faith with troops around the country. The chaplains each face resistance—from accusations of disloyalty to disapproval from their own families and community—while ascending to the highest ranks of the military. Like generations of minority service members before them, they call on the Department of Defense to support equality for all.

AMC helped by providing subject matter expertise, recruiting viewers for a community premier at the ISNA convention, and connecting the team with chaplains to serve on panels as it tours the country. We look forward to supporting their efforts to get this important film in front of audiences. If you'd like to host a free screening please contact [support@threechaplains.com](mailto:support@threechaplains.com).



*Dr. Ch. Joshua Salaam provides opening remarks to a standing room only crowd at ISNA where the screening was followed by a panel with Dr. Ingrid Mattson, Capt. Jabeen, and Maj. Lantigua.*



## Closing Message from AMC's President

Alhamdulillah, the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC) accomplished a great deal between 2022 - 2023.

With Allah's help, a committed board, and our dedicated members, we are hopeful for the coming year. This annual report is designed for you and other members to get a better sense of the status of AMC and where we are headed as an organization.

As a chaplain, your service to the community is truly invaluable and I pray that Allah rewards you abundantly for your efforts. I hope that AMC continues to serve you in the best of ways and that we properly communicate how important your membership is to us. May Allah bless all of you in the amazing work that you do.

Your Brother in Faith and Humanity,

Ch. Dr. Joshua Salaam  
President  
Association of Muslim Chaplains





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