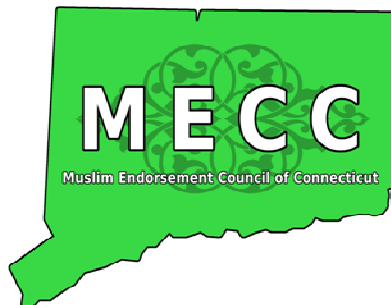




[www.associationofmuslimchaplains.com](http://www.associationofmuslimchaplains.com)

Based on a process developed in consultation with: Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (GSISS), Institute of Muslim Mental Health (IMMH), International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), International League of Muslim Women - New England Chapter, Islamic Council of New England (ICNE), Islamic Center of New London (ICNL), Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Islamic Relief-USA, Islamic Social Services Association-USA (ISSA-USA), Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), Manhattanville College Department of World Religions, Masjid Al-Islam (MAI), Muslim American Society (MAS)-Freedom, Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA), Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC), New England Council of Masajid, New England Muslim Sisters Association



[www.mecct.org](http://www.mecct.org)

Organizers of Shura 1433 can be reached at  
[admins@masjidalislam.net](mailto:admins@masjidalislam.net)  
or  
203-376-7189

NATIONAL SHURA 1433  
&  
IN-SERVICE FOR MUSLIM CHAPLAINS  
AND IMAMS



MARCH 10, 2012/ RABI AL-AKHIR 17, 1433  
YALE UNIVERSITY  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511





**The Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC)  
In cooperation with the  
Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF)  
National Shura and In-service training for Chaplains and Imams  
(Open to public)  
March 10, 2012 / Rabi Al-Akhir 17, 1433**

**Conference Chair:** Chaplain Omer Bajwa MA  
Coordinator of Muslim life, Yale University

**Co-Chair:** Imam Kashif Abdul Karim,  
President– Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC)

**Co-Chair:** Chaplain Rabia Harris MA, President–AMC

**Co-Chair:** Prof Jimmy Jones, President- ISF

**Track A - Prophetic Theory and Praxis**

**Dean:** Chaplain Mumina Kowalski MA

**Track B - Cross Cultural Capability**

**Dean:** Chaplain Matiniah Yahya M.Ed

**Track C - Facilitation Skills- Dean:** Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim

**Research and Strategic Planning- Dean:** Bonita McGee MA

**Conference Operations Director:**

Chaplain Abdulmalik Negedu

**Assistant to Operations Director:** Ankoma Wells

**Yale University Operations Director:** Munjed Murad

**Food Services Coordinator:** Ibrahim Abdul-Qawiy

**Registrar:** Chamali Antoine RN

**Assistant Registrar:** Nasiha Adkins

**Assistant Registrar:** Majidah Owu-Hagood

**Conference Support Coordinator:** Bernard Halliburton

**Sisters Hospitality Coordinator:** Nicole Wells

**Brothers Hospitality Coordinator:** Yunus Mu' min

**Location:** Yale University- Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) –

63 High Street, New Haven, CT 06511-8963

**Note:** All rooms have guest Wi-Fi, computers, chalkboards and LCD Projectors



*Goals*

1. Launch Association of Muslim Chaplains as a national organization.
2. Provide practical, interactive in-service training for Imams,
3. Provide practical, interactive in-service training for Chaplains,
4. Get feedback from interested stakeholders regarding Muslim Chaplaincy endorsement and Islamic seminary development.
5. Provide informational updates on Muslim chaplaincy endorsement and Muslim American Islamic seminary development.

## Program

**8:00am-** Registration / Continental Breakfast

**LC 1<sup>st</sup> fl. hallway**

**8:30am**

### Opening Plenary

**LC 102**

- ❖ **Opening Dua**'- Imam Imadudeen Abu-Hijleh
- ❖ **Welcome-** Prof Jimmy Jones for the Conference Chair Omar Bajwa
- ❖ **Welcome-** Chief Dean M. Esserman, Police Dept, City of New Haven
- ❖ **Welcome-** Islamic Seminary Foundation- Bonita McGee
- ❖ **Welcome-** Muslim Endorsement Council of CT- Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim
- ❖ **Association of Muslim Chaplains Intro/ Overview-** Chaplain Rabia Harris

**9:30am**

### Session I: Parallel Sessions

#### **A. Faith and Family Matters**

**LC 105**

- ❖ Imam Imadudeen Abu-Hijleh
- ❖ Aminah Ali
- ❖ *Moderator-* Tammy Elmansoury MA, Doctoral candidate

#### **B. Compassion Fatigue and Self-Care in Interfaith Settings**

**LC 104**

- ❖ Chaplain Abdulmalik Ngedu
- ❖ Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich
- ❖ *Moderator-* Chaplain Khaliah Abdul-Karim, Esq

#### **C. Clinical Assessment and Referral**

**LC 103**

- ❖ Najah Bazy, RN
- ❖ Chaplain Abdus- Salaam Musa
- ❖ *Moderator-*Tawfeek Khan, PharmD candidate

**10:45 am-** Break

**11:00am**

### Session II: Parallel Sessions

#### **A. Developing Chaplaincy and Imam Best Practices through Research** LC 105

- ❖ Chaplain Mumina Kowalski MA
- ❖ Dr. Wahiba Abu-Ras
- ❖ Dr. Hamada Hamid MD
- ❖ *Moderator-* Dr. Abubaker Al-Shingieti

#### **B. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Signs and Strategies**

**LC 104**

- ❖ Chaplain Lt. Col. Abdul Rasheed Muhammad MSW
- ❖ Rev. E. Terri LaVelle MATS
- ❖ Aqil Hashim LCSW
- ❖ *Moderator-* Chaplain Shareda Hosein MA

#### **C. Effective Engagement of Young People**

**LC 103**

- ❖ Chaplain Marwa Aly MA
- ❖ Mongi Dhaouadi
- ❖ *Moderator-* Chaplain Ashir Kirk

## *Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut*

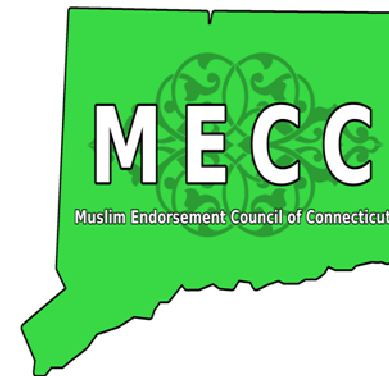
### **Highlights**

The committee attempted to contact every Islamic center in CT. It ultimately contacted more than 70% of the approximately 42 centers.

The committee made contact with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc (ACPE), and began encouraging CT Muslims to get clinical pastoral education training.

The committee held several statewide meetings where the leadership of the Islamic centers was invited to give feedback and advice on the issue of endorsing chaplains. The Islamic centers elected an endorsing body board in March 2010 (Rabi al-awal 1431), thereby establishing the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC). MECC was incorporated in March 2011 and applied for federal 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. In the interim, Masjid Al-Islam Inc. in New Haven CT has served as the fiduciary agent for the project.

In September of 2010, some of the members of the original group saw the need for the establishment of a Muslim American seminary. After consulting Muslim academics, national Muslim organizations and some non-Muslim entities, the decision was



[www.mecct.org](http://www.mecct.org)

# Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut

## Board of Directors

President: Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim  
Vice-President: Shazeeda Khan  
Treasurer: Imam Mahmoud Mansour MBA  
Secretary: Aqil Hashim LCSW  
Chaplain Matiniah Yahya M.Ed, Member at Large

**Interim Staff:** Prof. Jimmy E. Jones, D.Min and Chaplain AbdulMalik Negedu

**Vision:** To maintain, reinforce and improve quality standards of spiritual care for people in public and private institutions.

**Mission:** To provide a structure and process for the official endorsement and support of Muslim chaplains based on Islamic and pastoral principles and to establish a national standard for such endorsement in order to develop consistency and integrity in the field of Islamic chaplaincy. MECC serves to manifest the Qur'anic enjoinder and Prophetic traditions of consultation and consensus as also practiced by the four rightly guided caliphs. It strives to represent the diversity within the Muslim community in Connecticut.

**History:** For more than 15 years prior to the establishment of the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT Inc.(MECC), CT Islamic Prison Chaplains and volunteers would meet to discuss establishing a support group for Islamic chaplains and their clients. Such an effort coalesced in March of 2006 when several Muslim leaders in the state of CT in association with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut (MCCT) decided to look at the issue by establishing a chaplaincy sub-committee. With the advice and support of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-CT, the International League of Muslim Women CT Chapter, the Islamic Council of New England (ICNE), the New England Council of Masjid and the New England Muslim Sisters Association (NEMSA), MECC was established in March 2010 (Rabi al-awal 1431).

made to try to establish a Muslim American seminary, as a separate but related initiative.

MECC organized the National Shura and Best Practices on Chaplaincy and Muslim Seminary Workshops that was held on March 5, 2011 at Yale University. It was a successful effort to broaden the Muslim and non-Muslim input into these projects as well as increase the Muslim community's knowledge about the processes of establishing an endorsement entity and a seminary.

**12:15pm**

❖ Dhur Salat- Imam Imadudeen Abu-Hijleh

**LC 317**

**12:45pm-** Lunch/ Chaplaincy Group Meetings- Imams, Education, Community, Corrections, Healthcare, Military

❖ *Coordinator-* Chaplain Shareeda Hosein MA, Secretary-Treasurer, **AMC**

**2:00pm**

## **Session III: Parallel Sessions**

### **A. Maintaining Muslim Identity in the American Context**

**LC 105**

❖ Imam Mahmoud Mansour MBA

❖ Shazeedah Khan

❖ *Moderator-* Chaplain Dr. Mukhtar Curtis

### **B. Effective Interfaith Written and Oral Presentations**

**LC 104**

❖ Chaplain Nuri Friedlander MA

❖ Chaplain Rabia Harris MA

❖ *Moderator-* Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim

### **C. Domestic Violence: Signs and Strategies**

**LC 103**

❖ Anas Coburn MFT

❖ Bonita McGee MA

❖ *Moderator-* Chaplain Shamshad Sheikh MA

**3:15pm-** Break/ Asr Salat

**LC 317**

**3:45pm**

## **Session IV- Plenary Prof Jimmy Jones Moderator**

**LC 102**

### **A. The Imam in the Modern American Context**

❖ Imam Suhaib Webb

### **B. The Future of Muslim Chaplaincy in the US**

❖ Dr Ingrid Mattson

❖ **Q&A-** Chaplain Dr. Mukhtar Curtis / Written questions from audience

**5:00pm-** Break (Participants who want certificates turn in forms signed by moderators to registrar)

**5:15pm-** Closing Plenary

**LC 102**

❖ **AMC Report-**Chaplain Rabia Harris

❖ **MECC Report-** Imam Kashif Abdul Karim

❖ **ISF Report/ Evaluation-** Bonita McGee

❖ **Closing Remarks-** Prof. Jimmy Jones

**6:00pm-Closing Dua'** Imam Imadudeen Abu-Hijleh

## Biographies

### Imadudeen Abu Hijleh

**Shaykh Imadudeen Abu Hijlej**, Imam of Masjid Al-Islam, is originally from Palestine and has lived in the US for over two decades. He founded the Razi Institute (1992) and many of his students who completed their studies have gone on to start institutes of their own. Shaykh Imadudeen has studied classical books of many of the Shari'ah sciences, including Hadith, Fiqh, Qur'anic sciences and Tafsir, Spirituality, and Seerah. He has received ijazas in these sciences as well as chains of transmissions that trace back to the Prophet, (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). He is also the writer of 6 books, covering various Islamic topics such as 'Adidah, Fiqh, Family Matters, Inheritance, and Spirituality. He is currently writing an Encyclopedia of Fiqh that will address many modern issues and problems that are faced all over the world.

### Kashif Abdul-Karim

**Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim** reverted to the religion of Al-Islam on May 15, 1986 in a community that follows the commentary of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. A CT Islamic prison chaplain from 1987 until 2004, he is currently Resident Imam of Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford where he is very active in interfaith work. Kashif is secretary for The New England Council of Masajid and serves on the boards of CAIR-CT and the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. Imam Kashif, who resides in New Haven CT with his family, was employed as a CT Juvenile Parole Officer from 1989 until 2010. A graduate of University of Connecticut, he is founding chair of the board of MECC.

### Wahiba Abu-Ras

**Prof Wahiba Abu-Ras PhD** is a Fellow at the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding and Assistant Professor, Adelphi University's School of Social Work. Dr. Abu-Ras has published several articles about domestic violence among Arab immigrant women, the impact of 9/11 on the Muslim community; role of Imams in mental health settings, and the needs of chaplaincy services for Muslim patients. Her current research interests include the impact of trauma on Arab and Muslims in the US; PTSD and depression as related to 9/11, Muslim physicians and their civic involvement; substance abuse among Muslim youth, and assessment of Mental health issues among Muslims in the US Army. Prof. Abu-Ras currently serves as a member of the board of Muslim Mental Health Inc. Dr. Abu-Ras has a PhD from Columbia University School of Social Work. She also studied Public Administration at J.F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on a Fulbright Fellowship.

## The Association of Muslim Chaplains

[www.associationofmuslimchaplains.com](http://www.associationofmuslimchaplains.com)

### Board of Directors

Chaplain Rabia T. Harris, President  
Chaplain Shareda Hosein, Secretary and Treasurer  
AbdulMalik Negedu, Membership Chair  
Prof. Jimmy E. Jones, D. Min, Advisory Council  
Chaplain Matinniah Yahya, Education Chair  
Chaplain Mumina Kowalski  
Chaplain Omer Bajwa

Between the spring and summer of 2011 (1432 AH), a group of experienced and aspiring chaplains, united by a common desire to strengthen the field of Islamic chaplaincy, held a series of discussions. Participants recognized the pressing need for an organization that could provide Muslim chaplains with the opportunity to come to know each other and to mutually support, nurture, and encourage each other's professional growth in accordance with Qur'anic ideals and by agreed upon practices in the field of chaplaincy in the United States. These individuals further recognized that such an association must be sincere in manifesting the Prophetic traditions of inclusivity, consultation, and consensus, and that the diversity within the Muslim community and within the profession of chaplaincy must be fully represented. The Association of Muslim Chaplains is the product of those discussions. **Vision:** Our vision is to serve Allah (God) through facilitating and providing spiritual care, counseling, and Islamic services to all persons on the basis of compassion, neighborly kindness, and community service as emphasized in our Islamic tradition according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

**Values:** Our core values are drawn from the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) as follows:

**Ikhlas (Sincerity)** – our intention is to act *fi sabil Allah* (for the sake of God)).

**Nasihat (Good Counsel)** – our actions are in fulfillment of our religious obligation to provide *nasihat* (good counsel).

**Rahma (Mercy)** – our conduct reflects the example of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) who was sent as *rahma lil-'alamin* – mercy to all the worlds.

**Haya' (Dignity)** – our deportment demonstrates modesty, respect, honor, good morals and humility toward our own selves and to all others.

**Mission:** Our mission is to provide mutual support and nurturance for Muslims who are facilitating and providing spiritual care, counseling, and Islamic services within the Muslim community or in public and private institutions.

**Ethical Standards:** Members of the AMC are expected to follow the AMC Code of Ethics. The AMC Code of Ethics supports and endorses the Common Code of Ethics for Spiritual Care Professions affirmed by the constituent boards of the Council of Collaboration, which represents the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC), Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC), the National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC), and the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education. This common code of ethics may be independently referenced at [www.acpe.edu/council.htm](http://www.acpe.edu/council.htm).

## *Vision for an Islamic Seminary in the US*

Developed by the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) in consultation with Muslim and people from other faith traditions since **Shura 1432** (3/511)

- ❖ An institution that serves as a catalyst and platform for rigorous Islamic scholarship, research and training, firmly based on the Quran and Sunnah, integrating the best traditions of classical Islamic scholarship and Western academic scholarship.
- ❖ A seminary that seeks to preserve the life-giving guidance of Quran and Sunnah, making it relevant and meaningful to this period of history.
- ❖ An institution that serves the American Muslim community, addressing in particular the relevant fihi issues and questions of the American Muslim community, and the various social and organizational needs of masjids and the American Muslim community.
- ❖ An institution that serves as a vehicle for cross-fertilization between Muslims and non-Muslims in order to contribute to the general American ethos and to facilitate the civilizational and interfaith dialog which was accelerated in the wake of September 11, 2001.
- ❖ An institution that strengthens the role of religion in the public square by countering the current negative portrayals of Islam which tend to affect all religions.
- ❖ An institution that assists in the on-going development of the American Muslim identity, aimed at fostering authentic identities firmly rooted in both the American and Islamic contexts.
- ❖ An institution that promotes an agenda of social justice and compassion in the world.

## *Biographies*

### **Marwa Aly**

Chaplain Marwa Aly MA has been the Muslim Chaplain at Trinity College and Wesleyan University since 2008. She is an activist who provides pastoral care from an Islamic perspective and guidance counseling for the Muslim students on campus. Prior to her appointment at Trinity and Wesleyan, she was the first Muslim Chaplain at Manhattanville College (Purchase NY). Aly received her Bachelor of Arts with High Honors from Fordham University with a double major in Philosophy and Middle East Studies. She received her Master's in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary and is currently pursuing her certification in Islamic Chaplaincy. Chaplain Aly is also active with the Muslim American Society

### **Omer Bajwa**

Chaplain Omer Bajwa MA is Yale's Coordinator of Muslim Life. He is presently completing his Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary, and he has been engaged in religious service, social activism, and educational outreach for the past nine years. Before coming to Yale, he served as the Interim Muslim Chaplain at Cornell University (2007-2008). He received his MA in Near Eastern Studies, with a specialization in Islamic Studies, from Cornell. He also has an MS in Communications from Cornell and a BA in English Literature and Rhetoric from Binghamton University.

### **Najah Bazy**

Najah Bazy RN is a Transcultural Nurse Clinical Specialist and a Diversity Specialist with 25 years of experience. She has an extensive background in critical care nursing with special expertise in Arab and Muslim healthcare, beliefs, and practices. She is CEO of Diversity Specialists and Transcultural Health Care Solutions. She is also the Executive Director and Founder of Zaman International, a non-profit humanitarian organization which provides "Hope for Humanity". In 1996 she formed Bayt Al Zahra, a program to aid in refugee resettlement that provides food, clothes, shelter, medicine and everyday necessities to hundreds of indigent families in the Detroit metro area. She is also one of the co-founders and senior advisor for the Young Muslim Association of the Islamic Center of America.

### **Anas Coburn**

Anas Coburn MFT is the founder and Managing Director of Project Sakinah (anti-domestic violence program) and a member of the Dar al Islam team since 1987. He has a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and has practiced as a mental health clinician. He has worked with clients suffering from physical and sexual abuse and living in "high-risk," chaotic, multi-stressed families dealing with issues such as poverty, substance abuse, and serious mental illness, often all at the same time. His background informs his belief that violence within Muslim families is an issue best addressed at a community-wide level. Anas lives in rural Vermont, a mile from a paved road, amongst thousands of trees in perfect submission to their Creator.

## Biographies

### Mukhtar Curtis

**Chaplain Dr. Mukhtar Curtis PhD** has been a chaplain for the United States bureau of prisons since 1993. He has also taught Islamic Studies at Earlham and Hanover Colleges and served as Director of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Islamic Teaching Center. He holds a PhD in Near Eastern Studies and a Masters in Linguistics from University of Michigan. In addition he holds a Degree in Economics from Howard University and has participated in Al-Ameen Associates Summer Intensive Arabic Program at Al-Azhar University. He is a member of the National Endorsement Project's Advisory Board.

### Mongi S. Dhaouadi

**Mongi S. Dhaouadi**, Executive Director of CAIR-CT, was born and raised in Tunisia. He moved to the US when he was 19 years old and studied Electrical engineering at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. As Executive director of CAIR-CT, he conducts numerous civil rights workshops throughout the state under the title "Know Your Rights" He also leads workshops and discussions on Islamophobia and how to combat it. During last summer He and Dr.Imran Ahmed ran a youth internship program for 8 weeks during which eight high school and college students worked on several projects ranging from preparing a toolkit on Islamic cultural competency for schools, to writing and publishing an article from a Muslim youth perspective in the *Hartford Courant*. He also runs the Sunday school program at the Islamic Center of New London and facilitates the Muslim youth club in the new London

### Nuri Friedlander

**Chaplain Nuri Friedlander MA** is in his third year of graduate studies at Harvard University working towards a Ph.D. in Study of Religion. He received a B.A. in English and comparative literature as well as an M.A. in Arabic studies from the American University in Cairo. His master's thesis was entitled *The Intoxication of the Spirit: An Annotated Translation of Ahmad ibn Ajiba's Commentary on the Wine Song of Umar ibn al-Farid*, in which he examined the commentary tradition in relation to Sufi literature and the symbolism found in Sufi poetry. Nuri's studies are currently focused on the relationship between Islamic law and ethics and how that relationship might influence approaches to them both.

### Mahmoud Mansour

Imam Mahmoud Mansour MBA is a founder and treasurer of MECC as well as the Imam of the Islamic Center of New London CT. A native of Palestine, he is active in social justice issues in the Muslim community and the broader society. Imam Mahmoud has completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, CT. A scientist by profession, he has degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Hartford, Kansas State University and East Tennessee State University.

## Vision for an Islamic Seminary in the US

The mission of an Islamic Seminary in the U.S. is to be a preeminent institution of Islamic higher learning, whose primary purpose is to prepare Imams and Muslims leaders to serve Islam and the American Muslim community, combining rigorous Islamic scholarship with a commitment to strengthening the Muslim community in America and striving for social justice and compassion in the world.

The vision for an Islamic Seminary in the U.S. is that it should be:

The mission of an Islamic Seminary in the U.S. is to be a preeminent institution of Islamic higher learning, whose primary purpose is to prepare Imams and Muslims leaders to serve Islam and the American Muslim community, combining rigorous Islamic scholarship with a commitment to strengthening the Muslim community in America and striving for social justice and compassion in the world.

The vision for an Islamic Seminary in the U.S. is that it should be:

- ❖ An independent Muslim institution, not subsumed under any other institution whether in North America or the Muslim world.
- ❖ A world-class institution in terms of faculty and facilities, respected by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, on par with other seminaries and Islamic institutions in America and the Muslim world.
- ❖ A seminary that confers graduate degrees (Masters of Arts and Masters of Divinity) and certificates of professional training (pastoral care, Islamic studies teacher, youth leadership, mosque leadership, etc.) to both Muslim men and women.
- ❖ A seminary that graduates scholars of Islam and leaders imbued with expertise, piety and compassion. Graduates of the Seminary should be conversant with the major classical and modern texts in the main areas of Islamic scholarship, accessing the texts in their original language; able to conduct and produce research in fiqh and other areas; and trained in the skills of pastoral care, Imam functions and leadership.
- ❖ A seminary that partners with major American institutions of higher education and overseas Islamic institutions of higher learning to realize mutual benefit in resources and expertise: students in the American institutions might attend classes in the Islamic seminary and vice versa; overseas institutions of higher education might host Arabic language and Islamic studies courses for Islamic seminary students; overseas institutions might provide teachers for the Islamic seminary; and the seminary might have a cooperative agreement with an American institution for the use of their library which will help mightily in accreditation.
- ❖ An inclusive seminary that honors the broad scope of Islamic scholarship within the classical and modern eras, manifested in an inclusive staff, curriculum and board.



## Biographies

### Chaplain Matiniah Yahya

**Chaplain Matiniah Yahya M.Ed** is a full time Chaplain Resident at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven CT who is also a veteran educator with a wide range of teaching, training and consulting experiences in the US and the Middle East. A former lay midwife who has been a volunteer hospital and prison chaplain for more than a decade, she began Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) - certified Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training in 2010. Ms Yahya has been the Program Director of the Al-Azhar University (Cairo, Egypt) Summer Arabic Intensive for Americans for the past seven years and is currently on the boards of the national Association of Muslim Chaplains (**AMC**) and the Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut (**MECC**). A Muslim marriage counselor for more than a decade, Chaplain Yahya holds a BS in Human Services from Southern New Hampshire University and a Masters in Education from Wheelock College. She is also Chair of the Sisterhood at Masjid Al-Islam (New Haven CT).

## Biographies

### Hamada Hamid

**Prof. Hamada Hamid MD** is a board certified neurologist, psychiatrist and faculty member of the Yale School of Medicine. After graduating medical school at Michigan State University, he completed an internal medicine internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He has also completed a combined neurology and psychiatry residency at New York University where he was Chief Resident of the Department of Neurology and completed a Masters in Global Public Health. His current research interests include how the brain changes associated with epilepsy lead to mental illness, the role of culture in the presentation and management of neuropsychiatric illnesses, and mental health policy in the Middle East. He has published several articles and book chapters on mental health in Muslim cultures and is the founding and current Chief Editor of the Journal of Muslim Mental Health. He is the Director of the Center for Global Health at the Institute of Social Policy & Understanding, where he conducts and coordinates research on the role of culture and religion in the health care needs of Muslims.

### Rabia Harris

**Chaplain Rabia Harris MA**, President of **AMC**, is a CPE Supervisor in training at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick NJ and author of *Supporting Your Muslim Students: A Guide for CPE Supervisors*, a manual written for the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). She also edited the special section on Islamic Chaplaincy for the 2009 issue of the ACPE's journal, *Reflective Practice*. An adjunct professor of Intellectual Heritage at Temple University and of Islamic Studies at Ursinus College, she is Muslim Elder at the Community of Living Traditions, an intentional Abrahamic community dedicated to nonviolent social change located at Stony Point Conference Center (NY). In 1994, she founded the Muslim Peace Fellowship, the first organization specifically devoted to the theory and practice of Islamic active nonviolence. Chaplain Rabia has been involved in interreligious solidarity work and Muslim community life as a writer, speaker, and organizer for over 30 years. She has a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary, an MA in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from Columbia U, and a BA in Religion from Princeton U. She is a senior member of the Jerrahi Order of America.

### Shazeeda Khan

Shazeeda Khan is currently the Vice-President and one of the founders of the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (**MECC**). She was also one of the organizers of the inaugural **Shura1432** in 2011. She volunteers as a teacher of Islamic studies at the Federal correctional Institution-Danbury CT and at the Islam Center, Newtown CT. Sr Shazeeda is also a board member of ARC - Association of Religious Communities, Danbury CT. Shazeeda Khan has a BA in Economics from New York University and has taken Islamic Studies courses with the Zaytuna Institute and Academy.

## Biographies

### Shareda Hosein

**Chaplain Lt Col Shareda Hosein MA**, a founding member and Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC), is a self-employed chaplain serving in her communities of Boston and Tampa, and a Lt Col in the U.S. Army Reserves for the past 33 years. She is assigned to US Special Operations Command in Tampa FL as a Cultural Advisor and is a personnel and logistics officer by training. Lt Col Hosein is on the board of “There and Back Again,” an initiative that supports combat Veterans coping with PTSD. Shareda’s first job as a chaplain was at Tufts University in 2008. Chaplain Hosein has a chapter in the book, “*Spirituality, Women, Transformative Leadership: Where Grace Meets Power*” (2011). She was a co-host on weekly radio program on WRKO in Boston, “Talking Religion” (2006-2008). She wrote an article titled "Muslim Women in the Military" for Brille's Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures: Family, Law and politics, Military: Women's participation in the United States (2003). She has a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies & Christian/Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary and has a certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy. She holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration

### Aqil Hashin

**Aqil Hashim LCSW**, Secretary of the Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut **MECC**, accepted Islam during the month of Ramadan in 1988. In 1990, he entered the field of addiction services, working as a rehabilitation counselor and a substance abuse case manager/housing specialist. In 1993, he was hired as the first social worker at the newly constructed CT Department of Corrections (DOC)—Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown, CT. Since 2006 he has worked as a Clinical Social Worker. Br Aqil is now an employee of the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) in New Haven, CT. He is also the Vice-President of Masjid Al-Islam and the President of the Connecticut School of Survival, a martial arts organization located in New Haven. Aqil hashim graduated from Bryant University in 1984, with a BS in Business Administration and holds an MSW from University of CT (1997).

### Mumina Kowalski

**Chaplain Mumina Kowalski, MA** has been involved in Islamic Chaplaincy employment, education and professional development for over a decade. As the first contracted female Muslim prison in the state of Pennsylvania in 1999. In 2002, she was elected Secretary to a body of 85 multi-faith state prison chaplains in the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains’ Association. In 2004, she served on the board of Chaplains’ Services for ISNA Leadership Development Council. In 2006, she received a Fadel Educational Foundation scholarship for the further education of Muslim prison chaplains to study with Dr. Ingrid Mattson at Hartford Seminary. She completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Wellspan Health-York Hospital (PA). From 2008-2010 she served as the Coordinator and subsequently Assistant Director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program at Hartford Seminary while completing her master’s in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations. Her master’s thesis entitled, ‘A New Profession: Muslim Chaplains in American Public Life’, includes a survey of Muslim

## Biographies

### AbdulMalik Negedu

**Chaplain AbdulMalik Negedu**, a founding Board Member of the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC), is currently a full-time Chaplaincy Resident at the Hospital of St. Raphael (New Haven, CT) and a Development Consultant with the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) and the Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut, Inc. (MECC). He is also a volunteer with the Connecticut Hospice (Branford, CT). In addition, he is a former project director of the African Children’s Medical Network, an initiative of the African American Islamic Institute to secure pro bono medical intervention for African children in the United States. Chaplain AbdulMalik also assists ex-offenders with re-entry to society and works on inter-faith collaboration. AbdulMalik Negedu is a student at Hartford Seminary’s Islamic Studies, Muslim – Christian Relations and Islamic Chaplaincy program and hopes to use his education and experience to assist society’s vulnerable persons in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

### Steven Voytovich

**The Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich DMin** is a priest in the Orthodox Christian Church. He holds Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity Degrees from St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts Degree from Fairfield University in Community Counseling. He is a certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, a certified CPE supervisor with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSPP), and licensed professional counselor in CT. Dr. Voytovich assisted in developing institutional chaplaincy within the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), also a relatively new faith tradition to institutional chaplaincy.

### Suhaib Webb

**Imam Suhaib Webb** is a contemporary American-Muslim educator, activist, and lecturer. After converting to Islam in 1992, Webb left his career in the music industry to pursue his passion in education. He earned a Bachelor’s in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma and received private training in the Islamic Sciences under a renowned Muslim Scholar of Senegalese descent.

From 2004-2010, Suhaib Webb studied at Al-Azhar University, in the College of Shari`ah. Also, he completed the memorization of the Quran in the city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He has been granted numerous traditional teaching licenses (ijazat).

Webb was named one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims in the World by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in 2010 and his website, [www.SuhaibWebb.com](http://www.SuhaibWebb.com), was voted the best “Blog of the Year” by the 2009 Brass Crescent awards.

Suhaib Webb has lectured extensively around the world including in the Middle East, East Asia, Europe, North Africa and North America. Upon returning from his studies in Egypt, Webb lived in the Bay Area, California, where he worked with the Muslim American Society from Fall 2010 to Winter 2011. He recently accepted a position as the Imam of the Islamic Society of Boston’s Cultural Center (ISBCC).

## Biographies

### Ingrid Mattson

**Prof Ingrid Mattson PhD** is Director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, where she is Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, founder of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program and associate editor of *The Muslim World Journal*.

Dr. Mattson earned her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of Chicago (1999). Her research is focused on Islamic ethics and law, religious leadership and the Qur'an. Among her academic writings are studies on slavery, poverty, charity and adoption. Her book, *The Story of the Qur'an: its history and place in Muslim life*, has become a widely-used textbook on the Islamic sacred text.

She completed her second term as President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) in 2010, after serving two terms as vice-president; she was the first woman to serve in either position. From 2009-2010, Dr. Mattson was a member of the Interfaith Taskforce of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; in 2008 she was on the Council of Global Leaders of the C-100 of the World Economic Forum; from 2007-2008, she was a member of the Leadership Group of the U.S.-Muslim Engagement (USME). From 1987-1988 she lived in Pakistan where she developed and implemented a midwife-training program for Afghan refugee women. Dr. Mattson is frequently consulted by media, government and civic organizations, lectures widely to academic and general audiences, and has served as an expert witness.

### Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad

**Chaplain Lt. Col Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad MSW** was affirmed into the U.S. Army as the first Islamic Chaplain in the U.S. Armed Forces in 1993. Before becoming an Army chaplain, Lt. Col Muhammad served as a chaplain for the Department of Corrections in New York State and consultant on Chaplaincy to ISNA. He also served as an enlisted Soldier in the Army from 1982-1985. Imam Muhammad's educational background includes: a Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropology, State University College of New York at Brockport, a Master of Science Degree, Counseling Education, from San Diego State University, and a Master Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. He is a member of the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) planning body.

### Abdus-Salaam Musa

**Chaplain Abdus-Salaam Musa** is a Supervisor in Training for Clinical Pastoral Education, with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy at the Episcopal Health Services (NY). Chaplain Musa is a co-founders of Islamic Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education. He is a certified Chaplain on the leadership team the Disaster Spiritual Care Services of NYC and is associated with many Islamic organizations that address domestic violence, HIV and AIDS, drug addiction and other social maladies. Chaplain Musa has a Bachelor of Professional Services from Audrey Cohen College of Human Services and a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary.

## Biographies

### Jimmy (James) Jones

**Prof. Jimmy (James) Jones, DMin** is Chair and Associate Professor of World Religions with a concurrent appointment in African Studies at Manhattanville College (Purchase, NY). Prof. Jones has been a volunteer prison chaplain with the CT Department of Corrections since 1980 and has served as a community based mentor in cooperation with the Yale New Haven Hospital Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program. He is also chair of the Board of Masjid Al-Islam (New Haven CT) and has trained, taught and lectured extensively in the US and abroad. Dr. Jones is the President of the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) and advisor to MECC and AMC. He holds a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary.

### E. Terri Lavelle

**Rev. E. Terri Lavelle MATS** is a President Obama appointee who began serving as Director, Veteran Administration (VA) Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, on September 14, 2009. She is a registered nurse and has worked in health care as an administrator, clinician, human resource manager, and nurse recruiter for inpatient and outpatient facilities. She has also served on the Board of and worked for nonprofit faith-based community health centers in the areas of HIV/AIDS and childhood asthma.

Rev. LaVelle also served for eight years as a Chaplain in Residence at Georgetown University. Rev. She has a BS degree in Nursing from Rush University and a MA in Theological Studies (MATS) from McCormick Theological Seminary. Rev. E. Terri is a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, DC, where she was ordained in 2003 and serves as an Associate Minister.

### Bonita R. McGee

**Bonita R. McGee MA**, Board member of the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) serves on the board of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA (ISSA-USA), a national organization addressing social issues and promoting social work and related fields in the Muslim Community. She also provides trainings and assessments for communities in need of addressing the issue of domestic violence. Bonita McGee is also a board member and co-founder of the Muslim Family Services of Ohio (formerly the Muslim Women's Network and Community Services), a social service organization serving the Muslim community in Greater Columbus and surrounding areas. Sr. Bonita received a Masters in Islamic Sciences from the School of Islamic and Social Sciences. Ms. McGee oversees evaluation for the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF)