

The Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC) in cooperation with Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) presents

**March 9, 2013 / Rabi Al-Akhir 27, 1434
Yale University | New Haven, CT**

National Shura & In-Service Training

**for Chaplains and Imams and
Other Service Providers to the
Muslim Community**



ABOUT

The Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC) in cooperation with Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) presents:

National Shura and In-Service Training for Chaplains and Imams and Other Service Providers to the Muslim Community

(Open to Public)

Saturday, March 9, 2012 / Rabi Al-Akhir 27, 1434

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Conference Committee

Conference Chair: Chaplain Omer Bajwa, Coordinator of Muslim Life, Yale University

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

Co-Chair: Chaplain Rabia Harris, President – AMC

Conference Dean: Professor Jimmy Jones

Associate Dean: Chaplain Matiniah Yahya

Track A Dean: Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad

Track B Dean: Chaplain Shareda Hosein

Track C Dean: Prof Ihsan Bagby

Research and Strategic Planning Dean: Bonita McGee, M.A.

Conference Operations Director: Edmanuel Gonzalez

Food Services Coordinator: Ibrahim Abdul Qawiyy

Registrar: Anisa Joyner M.Ed

Assistant Registrar: Miriam Kanaan

Sisters Hospitality Coordinator: Kai Wingo M.Ed

Brothers Hospitality Coordinator: Abdullah Franklin

Staffing: Masjid Al-Islam, Youth Empowerment Squad (Y.E.S) and other volunteers

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. Convene annual meeting of the Association of Muslim Chaplains.
2. Provide practical interactive in-service training for Imams, Chaplains and other service providers to Muslim community
3. Get feedback from interested stakeholders regarding curriculum development for the effective education and training of Chaplains, Imams and other service providers to Muslim community.
4. Provide informational updates on Muslim chaplaincy endorsement and Muslim American Islamic seminary development.

Donations

Make all checks payable to:

Islamic Seminary Foundation

PO Box 8484

New Haven, CT 06531 USA

Phone: (203) 376-7189

Email: shura1434newhaven@gmail.com

Saturday, March 9, 2012 / Rabi Al-Akhir 27, 1434

8:00 am | **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am | **Opening Plenary** | LC 102

Moderator – Professor Jimmy Jones

Opening Du'a/ Quran Recitation – Chaplain Adrian Ashir Kirk

Welcome - Chaplain Omar Bajwa, Conference Chair

Association of Muslim Chaplains - Chaplain Rabia Harris

Islamic Seminary Foundation - Professor Jimmy Jones

Muslim Endorsement Council of CT - Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim

Welcome – Rev Anthony J. Bruno, Director of Religious Services, CT Dept of Corrections, American Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCA)

9:30 am | **Session I: Parallel Sessions**

A. Effective Engagement of Young People | LC 103

Farha Fazel, Imam Khalid Latif, Moderator – Jamila Marr

B. Self-Care for Care Givers | LC 104

Dr Yamina Bouguenaya Mermer, Chaplain Abdus-Salaam Musa, Moderator – Aqil Hashim LCSW

C. ISF Curriculum Planning – Quranic Literacy | LC 105

Dr. Shadee Elmasry, Chaplain Adrian Ashir Kirk, Moderator - Professor Ihsan Bagby Phd

10:45 am | **Break**

11:00 am | **Session II: Parallel Sessions**

A. Developing Chaplaincy and Imam Best Practices Through Research | LC 104

Chaplain Mumina Kowalski MA, Dr. Hamada Hamid, Moderator - Dr. Abubaker Al-Shingieti

B. Disaster & Gun Violence Response Training | LC 103

Chaplain Khaliah Abdul-Karim JD, Chaplain Matiniah Yahya M.Ed, Rev. Steven Voytovich DMin, Moderator - Chaplain Shamshad Sheikh

C. ISF Curriculum Planning – Prophetic Theory & Praxis | LC 105

Chaplain Mukhtar Curtis PhD, Tammy Elmansoury MA, MPhil, Moderator - Prof Ihsan Bagby PhD

12:15 pm | **Dhuhr Salat**

Imam Mahmoud Mansour / Chaplain Adrian Ashir Kirk

12:45 pm | **Lunch / Networking & Resource Sharing**

Chaplain Shareda Hosein, Imam Dr Salahuddin Muhammad

A. Community, Corrections, and Education | LC 102

B. Healthcare & Military | LC 103

2:00 pm | **Session III: Parallel Sessions**

A. Effective Khutbahs and Other Oral Presentations | LC 104

Chaplain Shareda Hosein MA, Chaplain Sohaib Sultan, MA, Moderator - Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad

B. Dealing with Islamophobia & Radicalization | LC 103

Chaplain Omer Bajwa MA, MS, SpearIt, PhD, JD, Moderator - Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim

C. ISF Curriculum Planning – Certificate Curriculum for Chaplains and Imams | LC 105

Imam Mahmoud Mansour MBA, Joseph Cumming MA, MPhil, Najah Bazy RN, Moderator- Prof Ihsan Bagby Phd

3:18 pm | **Break & Asr Salat**

Imam Mahmoud Mansour/Chaplain Adrian Ashir Kirk

3:45 pm | **Session IV - Plenary Panel : “The Future of Islamic Chaplaincy”** | LC 102

President - Chaplain Rabia Harris MA

Vice President – Community (Interim): Chaplain Matiniah Yahya M.Ed

Vice President – Corrections: Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad

Vice President – Education: Chaplain Omer Bajwa MA

Vice President – Healthcare: Chaplain Abdus-Salaam Musa

Vice President – Military (Interim): Chaplain Shareda Hosein MA

Moderator-Chaplain Rabia Harris

Closing Comments – Professor Jimmy Jones / Closing Dua’ – Chaplain Matiniah Yahya

4:45 pm | **Break**

5:00 pm | **Annual Meeting AMC** | LC 102

Chair – Chaplain Rabia Harris MA

6:00 pm | **Closing Du’a**

Conference Leadership Bios

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 Masaajid and serves on the board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Connecticut (CAIR-CT) and is very active in community-wide justice initiatives. Imam Kashif, who resides in Hamden 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 and was a major designer, organizer, and presenter at the first national Shura conference held at Yale University in March 2011/1432.

Omer Bajwa

Chaplain Omer Bajwa is Yale's Coordinator of Muslim Life. He earned his Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary, and he has been engaged in religious service, social activism, and educational outreach for over a decade. Before coming to Yale, he served as the Interim Muslim Chaplain at Cornell University (2007-2008). He received his M.A. in Near Eastern Studies, with a specialization in Islamic Studies, from Cornell. He also has an M.S. in Communications from Cornell and a B.A. in English Literature and Rhetoric from Binghamton University. Chaplain Bajwa is Vice President of Education Chaplaincy for AMC and a founding board member of ISF.

Ihsan Bagby

Dr. Ihsan Bagby is currently Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at University of Kentucky. He obtained a PhD from University of Michigan in Near Eastern Studies. His research for more than a decade has focused on Muslims in America. In 2001 he published the results of the first comprehensive study of mosques in America, entitled "The Mosque in America: A National Portrait" (available at www.cair.com). In 2012 he published "The American Mosque 2011: Basic Characteristics of the American Mosque, Attitudes of Mosque Leaders." He serves on the advisory board of Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research, and is active in other organizations including Interfaith Alliance, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA) and Islamic Society of North America (ISNA).

Rabia Harris

Chaplain Rabia Harris, founding 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). 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 at Stony Point Conference Center (Stony Point, NY). In 1994, she founded the Muslim Peace Fellowship. Chaplain Rabia 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.

Shareda Hosein

Chaplain Lt Col Shareda Hosein, 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 member of 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. 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 has a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies and Christian/Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary and has a certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration

Jimmy (James) Jones

Prof. Jimmy (James) Jones 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 former 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), advisor to MECC and AMC and member of the national board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). A marriage counselor for more than two decades, he holds a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary.

Bonita R. McGee

Bonita R. McGee, Vice President 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. Bonita received an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and a Masters in Islamic Sciences from the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences.

Salahuddin Mustafa Muhammad

Imam Dr. Salahuddin Mustafa Muhammad a student of Islam since 1964 is resident Imam of Masjid Al-Ikhlās (Newburgh NY). Imam Muhammad has received his Doctoral degree in Islamic Studies—Christian/Muslim relations from Hartford Seminary, a Masters degree in Theology and Counseling from New York Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences from SUNY at New Paltz. He has also received a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary. He has also been a student of the late contemporary Islamic leader Imam Warith Deen Mohammed. Dr. Muhammad has been employed as a Muslim Chaplain for the New York State Department of Correctional Services since 1985, working in maximum, medium and minimum security prisons, county jails, as well as a psychiatric center. He is Vice President for Corrections Chaplaincy for AMC.

Matiniah Yahya

Chaplain Matiniah Yahya is a community chaplain, former full time Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) - certified Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Chaplaincy Resident at Yale-New Haven Hospital, a Master Disaster Chaplain Instructor certified by FEMA/NDIN and Islamic Relief-USA as well as a veteran educator with a wide range of teaching, training and consulting experiences in the US and the Middle East. Chaplain Yahya has been a volunteer hospital and prison chaplain for over a decade. Matiniah Yahya is currently on the board of MECC and Vice-President of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Connecticut (CAIR-CT). 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 Interim Vice President for Community Chaplaincy for AMC.

Presenter Bios

Khaliah Abdul-Karim

Chaplain Khaliah Abdul-Karim re-verted to the religion of Al-Islam in September, 2010 and is a graduate of the University of Southern California with an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice, a BS degree in Political Science and a Law degree. Khaliah is also a graduate of Yale New Haven Hospital's ACPE Program for Chaplaincy and a Master Disaster Chaplain Instructor under the tutelage of FEMA/NDIN in partnership with Islamic Relief-USA. Presently, Khaliah is in Newtown, CT as a First Responder to the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy and has opened a crisis center there to support the recovery of the devastated families. She recently went to Washington DC and spoke to various Senators about changing gun laws. Khaliah is married to Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim of Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford and has three step-children, Samira, Gabriel and Joshua.

Najah Bazy

Najah Bazy is a Transcultural RN 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.

Anthony J. Bruno

Rev. Anthony J. Bruno is the Director of Religious Services for the Connecticut Department of Correction and a graduate of St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. He joined the CT Department of Correction as an institutional Chaplain in January, 1987. A United States Army Reserve Chaplain from 1975 - 1996, he is certified as a Correctional Chaplain by the American Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCA), a national certifying organization (he is one of fewer than 40 Correctional Chaplains in the entire country currently certified by that body). He has served two terms as President of ACCA (2006-2010) and is currently its Chancellor. As a member of the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCCA), he also holds national certification since 1987 from that group, (one of only approximately 10 Catholic Chaplains in the country to have that distinction).

Joseph Cumming

Rev. Joseph Cumming is the founder and former Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture Reconciliation Program. The Reconciliation Program promoted reconciliation between Muslims and Christians, and between Muslim nations and the West, drawing on the resources of the Abrahamic faiths and the teachings and person of Jesus. Joseph also teaches courses in Islamic Studies as visiting faculty at Fuller Theological Seminary, and he is completing his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and Christian Theology at Yale. He speaks fluent Arabic, as well as several other languages. He is also an ordained Christian minister (Assemblies of God). Joseph's bachelor's degree (in Religion) is from Princeton University; his M.Div. (concentration: Cross-Cultural Studies) is from Fuller Theological Seminary; and he has M.A. and M.Phil. degrees (in Religious Studies) from Yale.

Mukhtar Curtis

Chaplain Dr. Mukhtar Curtis 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.

Presenter Bios

Tammy Elmansoury

Tammy Elmansoury studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where she completed an MA and an MPhil in the History of the Islamic world. Her area of study is modern Islamic movements. She teaches History at local colleges, and enjoys helping with da'wa efforts in her community. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, Dr. Shadee Elmasry, and their three children.

Shadee Elmasry

Dr. Shadee Elmasry began studying the traditional sciences rigorously at age eighteen after a summer in Fes, Morocco. Since then he has studied all over the world including Hadramawt (Yemen), Mecca and Madina (Saudi Arabia), London (UK), Cairo (Egypt) and New Jersey (US) under several luminaries of our time including the venerable scholars Habib Ali al-Jifri and Habib Umar bin Hafiz. He also studied at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (PhD) and at George Washington University where he studied world religions. He has taught at Hartford Seminary, Manhattanville College, Trinity College and Yale University. Currently, Dr. Elmasry is Scholar in Residence and Director of Education and Community Affairs at the New Brunswick Islamic Center (NJ). He is also founder and head of Safina Society—an institution dedicated to the cause of traditional Islamic education in the West.

Farha Fazel

Farha Fazel is one of the founders of United Muslim Foundation (UMF) Muslim Portal on TeenCentral.Net, an anonymous helpline website for Muslim teens. She currently holds the position of TeenCentral.Net Communications Director for United Muslim Foundation, a charity that promotes Unity, Education and Community Service by the Muslim Ummah. She has recently graduated from Cedar Crest College with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelors of Science in Marketing. As a youth, she has practical experience empowering youths to understand the message of Islam and act in accordance with Islamic guidelines. She has served as President and Secretary of her MSA and Youth Group President and currently resides in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hamada Hamid

Dr Hamada Hamid is a board certified neurologist, psychiatrist and Assistant Professor 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. 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.

Adrian "Ashir" Kirk

Adrian "Ashir" Kirk studied Arabic and Islamic Studies in Syria for 4 years and did Quran memorization in Morocco for 2 years. He returned to the US in 2009 and served as the assistant to the then President of Masjid Al-Islam Dr. Jimmy Jones until 2012 while teaching Arabic to high school students at Yale University. During that time he also completed a unit of CPE training at Yale New Haven Hospital. Ashir currently Serves as the Chair of Islamic Studies at the Toledo Islamic Academy in Toledo, Ohio and is on the faculty of Fawakih as an instructor in Tajweed and Quranic Literacy.

Mumina Kowalski

Chaplain Mumina Kowalski was the first contracted female Muslim prison chaplain in the state of PA in 1999. In 2002, she was elected Secretary to the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains' Association, a body of 85 multi-faith state prison chaplains. In 2004, she served on the board of Chaplains' Services for ISNA Leadership Development Council. In 2006, she received a Fadel Educational Foundation scholarship to study at Hartford Seminary. She completed one unit of CPE 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, "A New Profession: Muslim Chaplains in American Public Life", includes a survey of Muslim chaplains working in four fields: prisons, hospitals, universities and the U.S. military.

Khalid Latif

Imam Khalid Latif is University Chaplain for New York University, Executive Director of the Islamic Center at NYU, and a Chaplain for the NYPD. In 2012, Imam Latif co-founded with NYU's Vice-Chancellor Linda Mills, Rabbi Yehuda Sarna, and Chelsea Clinton the Of Many Institute, a groundbreaking academic and programmatic model for multifaith education at the university level. Imam Latif has lectured throughout the United States and in various parts of the world and has been featured in numerous media outlets including the Huffington Post, BBC, NPR, CNN, the NY Times, Katie Couric, New York Magazine, The Colbert Report, Newsweek, Time Magazine, BET and GEO. Chaplain Latif has been named one of the 500 most influential Muslims in the world by Georgetown University's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talaal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (2009 & 2010).

Presenter Bios

Mahmoud Mansour

Imam Mahmoud Mansour 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. Imam Mansour has an MBA and is President of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Connecticut (CAIR-CT).

Yamina Bouguenaya Mermer

Dr. Yamina Bouguenaya Mermer is the founder and director of the Receiving Nur Center. Dr. Yamina's areas of expertise are Quranic Studies, Islamic theology, as well as religion and science. Dr. Yamina holds a PhD in Quantum Physics from Durham University in England and has since published extensively on Islamic philosophy of science. She also received intensive training in Islamic Studies both in the US and in traditional settings. She has taught Arabic and Islamic Studies in various universities in the US. She is fluent in Arabic, French, English and Turkish and has translated and published in several languages. She has been holding study circles on the spiritual application of the Quran in daily life in various places, including England, Turkey, US, and online. She has been doing extensive spiritual counseling and coaching, and offering retreats and workshops.

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-founder of Islamic Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education. He is a certified Chaplain on the leadership team of 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. He is also AMC's Vice President for Healthcare Chaplaincy.

Sohaib Sultan

Chaplain Sohaib Sultan is the first full-time Muslim Life Coordinator and Chaplain at Princeton University. He is a graduate of the Hartford Theological Seminary earning a Masters in Islamic Studies & Christian-Muslim Relations, and a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy. His research and academic interests are in Islamic spirituality and psychology, as well as the development of practical skills in religious leadership. Sultan's master's thesis was on *Preaching with Purpose: Writing and Delivering Great Sermons*. Sultan is a well-known author. His first book, *The Koran for Dummies*, part of the well-known for Dummies series was published in 2004. Sultan published his second book, *The Qur'an and Sayings of Prophet Muhammad: Selection Annotated and Explained*, in 2007. Sultan is also a public lecturer on Islam, Muslim Cultures, and Muslim-Western Relations.

SpearIt

SpearIt is an Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University School of Law where he teaches Criminal Law, Sentencing, and Corrections Law. His research concentrates on criminal justice, and most recently his work has appeared in the Michigan State Law Review, Federal Sentencing Reporter, Praeger Security International, among other publications including a 2013 report on Muslim radicalization in prison. SpearIt earned a B.A. in philosophy, magna cum laude, from the University of Houston, a master's in theological studies at Harvard Divinity School, a Ph.D. in religious studies at UC Santa Barbara, and a J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law. Currently SpearIt is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding; Board Member of the Society of American Law Teachers, LatCrit, Inc., and the Saint Louis University Prison Program.

Steven Voytovich

The Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich 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 (APC), a certified CPE supervisor with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), 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. He has also served as an executive committee member of the International Congress for Pastoral Care and Counseling (ICPCC).

Association of Muslim Chaplains

www.associationofmuslimchaplains.com

Board of Directors

Chaplain Rabia T. Harris, President
Chaplain Matinah Yahya, Vice President – Community (Interim)
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Chaplain Shareda Hosein MA, Vice President – Military (Interim)
Chaplain Mumina Kowalski, Secretary
Chaplain Shareda Hosein, Treasurer
Professor Jimmy E. Jones, Advisory Council
Chaplain Matinah Yahya, Education Chair

HISTORY

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).

Nasiha (Good Counsel) – our actions are in fulfillment of our religious obligation to provide nasiha (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.

SPECIAL THANKS to the many who assisted with Shura1434 including:

Administration: Manhattanville College Department of World Religions

Facilities: Yale University Chaplain's Office

Fiduciary agents: Council on American-Islamic Relations-Connecticut (CAIR-CT), Masjid Al-Islam (New Haven CT)

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Graphics: Zenah Hasan (Program), Adrian Ashir Kirk (Logo)

Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut

A 501 3 (c) IRS tax-exempt organization

Board of Directors

President: Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim
Vice-President: Chaplain Shazeeda Khan
Treasurer: Imam Mahmoud Mansour, MBA
Secretary: Aqil Hashim LCSW
Member at Large: Chaplain Matinah Yahya M.Ed,
Interim Staff: Professor Jimmy Jones, D.Min

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 Masajid and the New England Muslim Sisters Association (NEMSA), MECC was established in March 2010 (Rabi al-awal 1431).

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.

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

The establishment of this national Shura conference in 1432/2011 is based on a process developed in consultation with: Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (GSISS), International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), International League of Muslim Women - New England Chapter, 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), Masjid Al-Islam (MAI), Muslim American Society (MAS)- Freedom, Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA), Muslim Chaplains Association, New England Council of Masajid, New England Muslim Sisters Association (NEMSA)

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NOTES

ABOUT

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 fiqh 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.

