9TH ANNUAL
SHURA CONFERENCE
And In-Service for Chaplains, Imams, and
Other Service Providers to the Muslim Community

Protecting the Heart:
ISLAM AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Shura 1440
Sat. March 23, 2019
8 am — 6 pm
Yale Divinity School

WWW.ISLAMICSEMINARY.US/SHURA
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National Shura and In-Service Training for Chaplains and Imams
Applications for the Fall 2019 Inaugural Class of
THE ISLAMIC SEMINARY OF AMERICA (TISA)
are now being accepted!

See further info on the last 2 pages of this program and
apply at
islamicseminary.us
The Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC)
https://associationofmuslimchaplains.org/

Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) DBA The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA)
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in cooperation with the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC)
https://mecct.org/

Present

The 9th Annual National Shura and In-service Training for Chaplains and Imams and Other Service Providers
to the Muslim Community (Open to the public)

March 23, 2019 / Rajab 16, 1440

AMC Spring Members’ ONLY Retreat Modules (Separate Additional Registration $20)
Saturday March 23 at 6-9pm - Dinner/Networking and Sunday March 24 at 9:00am-1pm

Location: Yale Divinity School, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven CT 06511
Note: All rooms have guest Wi-Fi, and LCD Projectors

Conference Chair: Chaplain Omer Bajwa, Coordinator of Muslim Life, Yale University
Co-Chair: Chaplain Shazeeda Khan, President – MECC
Co-Chair: Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad, President – AMC
Conference Dean: Prof. Jimmy Jones, Board Chair – ISF / TISA
Conference Dean Assistants: Ubaid Govan, Eugene Chapple
Associate Dean: Chaplain Matiniah Yahya, VP-MECC
Associate Dean Assistant: Khaliah Abdul-Karim JD
Track A Dean: Quaiser Abdullah PhD
Track B Dean: Shazeeda Khan BA
Track C Dean: Aqil Hashim LCSW

Research and Strategic Planning - Dean: Bonita McGee MA
Research Associates: Daneil Chambers, Marwa Soliman
Conference Operations Coordinator: Abdullah Franklin
Auxiliary Services Coordinator: Edmanuel Gonzalez

Food Services Coordinators: Ibrahim Abdul Qawiyy, John Jones
Transportation Coordinator: John Singleton

Audio-Visual Documentation: Jay Boz, Mira Abou Elezz, Taha El-Nil, Aymann Ismail
Head Registrar: Mariam Kanaan BA
Assistant Registrars: Nasihah Adkins BS, Anisa Joyner MEd, Mariam Khan BS
Room Hosts: S200 – Faye Latif, S223 – Brandy Chambers,
S202 – Kadiatu Turay, Old Common Room – Marwa Soliman

Staffing: Masjid Al-Islam volunteers and other volunteers

Goals

1. Convene annual meeting of the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC).
2. Convene annual meeting and training for endorsees of the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC).
3. Provide practical, interactive in-service training for Imams, Chaplains and other service providers to the Muslim community.
4. Get feedback from interested stakeholders regarding curriculum development for the effective education and training of Chaplains, Imams and other service providers to the Muslim community.
5. Provide informational updates on Muslim chaplaincy endorsement (MECC) and Muslim American Islamic seminary development (ISF).
Saturday, March 23, 2019

8:00am  Registration - Refectory / Continental Breakfast - Old Common Room

8:30am  Opening Plenary - Chair – Ch Omer Bajwa Old Common Room
Opening Du’a – Atty Roula Allouch – Chair, Council on American Islamic Relations
Qur’an Recitation – Masjid Al-Islam Imam Abdessalam Elmaskauy
Welcome – Yale Divinity School Associate Dean William Goettler
Welcome – CT Supreme Court Justice Hon. Lubbie Harper Jr
Association of Muslim Chaplains – President Imam Dr Salahuddin Muhammad, Ch Sharif Rosen
Muslim Endorsement Council of CT- Board Member Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) - Ch Jawad Bayat
Association of Professional Counselors (APC) - President Rev Dr Ronald C. Oliver
Islamic Seminary Foundation/Islamic Seminary of America – President Prof Ihsan Bagby

9:30am  Session 1: Plenary Session – Old Common Room / Moderator – Prof Jimmy Jones
A.  Panel – “Muslim American Intergroup and Intragroup Prejudice in the African American, Arab and South Asian Communities” Prof Ihsan Bagby, Atty Roula Allouch, Dr Zahid Bukhari
B.  Facilitated small groups – “Developing Issues and Scenarios for Effective Cross-Cultural Competency Training” / Facilitators – Dr Quaiser Abdullah, Bonita McGee, Ch Aida Mansoor, Dr Mukhtar Curtis

11:00am  Break

11:15am  Session II: Parallel Sessions
A.  “Cultural Competency: “We’re Only Midway in the Journey” Dr Khadijah Matin / Moderator – Ch Raqeeb Abduljabbar S202
B.  “Endorsement of Muslim Chaplains in American Institutions” Ch Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, Ch Mustafa Boz, Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim / Moderator – Ch Nisa Muhammad S223
C.  “Meet the Authors” – One Nation, Indivisible – Dr Celene Ibrahim, Forever Suspect – Prof Saher Selod, Stigmatized – Dr Reza Mansoor / Moderator – Prof Ihsan Bagby S200

12:45pm  Dhur Salat- Commuter Lounge / Lunch – Old Common Room

1:15pm  AMC Annual Meeting - Imam Dr Salahuddin Muhammad Refectory

1:30pm  Education-Networking Bazaar / Old Common Room

2:30 pm  Session III: Parallel Sessions
B.  “Student Cross-Cultural Issues in Higher Education” Ch Nisa Muhammad, Ch Leenah Safi / Moderator – Munir Shaikh S223
C.  “Who Are We?” Prof Lance Laird, Ch Samsiah Abdul Majid and Ch Shareda Hosein / Moderator – Ch Joshua Salaam Old Common Room

4:00 pm  Break – Old Common Room / Asr Salat - Commuter Room

4:30 pm  Closing Plenary Chair – Ch Aida Mansour Old Common Room
Greetings– Yale University Chaplain Sharon Kuglen
“Cross-cultural Competency: The Way Forward” Speaker – Prof Rania Awaad MD, Response – Prof Jimmy Jones DMin

6:00 pm  Closing du’a – Dr Quaiser Abdullah
BOOKS FEATURED IN THIS YEAR'S MEET THE AUTHORS SESSION

ONE NATION INDIVISIBLE
Seeking Liberty and Justice from the Pulpit to the Streets
FORTHCOMING IN 2019

CELENE IBRAHIM
One Nation, Indivisible

SAHER SELOD
Forever Suspect

REZA MANSOOR
Stigmatized

Moderator – IHSAN BAGBY
11:15AM Rm S200

National Shura and In-Service Training for Chaplains and Imams
Call for Papers: Islam and Cross-Cultural Competency
https://goo.gl/XztrLD

The *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* is an annual double-blind peer-reviewed open access online academic and interdisciplinary journal published by Indiana University and sponsored by the Islamic Seminary Foundation – the governing body of The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA). The *Journal* invites colleagues to submit articles for publication that combine intellectual rigor with community engagement. The *Journal* aims to provide a platform for scholars, students, and researchers to exchange their latest findings from different areas and fields. One of the key aims of the *Journal* is to foster dialogue between academics, researchers, community leaders, and students regarding Islamic faith and how it is practiced in America. To this end, successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication and engagement with existing scholarship, while also being accessible to non-specialists. This third edition of the *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* will discuss and analyze Islam and Cross-Cultural Competency. The aim of this volume is to synthesize and advance both theoretical and empirical research about Islam and cultural competency within various disciplines including education, sociology, political science, healthcare, psychology, bioethics, ecology, social service, the arts and other relevant areas. Colleagues interested in publishing the proceedings of a conference and book reviews are also welcomed. The *Journal* is a refereed periodical that is published once a year usually in March. The timeline for peer review and publication is in the range of 5-6 months.

This third edition, focusing on Islam and Cross-Cultural Competency, will, inshallah, include the following:

- Theoretical papers: How do we examine and analyze the American Muslim cross-cultural worldview in terms of the development of methodologies in approaching the Qurʾān, Sunna and Islamic traditions?
- Historical studies: How do we read and examine historical events, persons, and organizations that have an effect on Muslim communities’ cross-cultural worldview in America and beyond?
- American Islamic praxis papers: How do we examine the new practices, traditions and cultures that are developing within the American Muslim community as they relate to Islamic cross-cultural competency?
- Case studies, qualitative interviews, and oral histories of key people or organizations: How do we examine and evaluate the conduct of American Muslims’ religious leadership including the role of scholars, imams, chaplains’ contributions with respect to responding to cross-cultural challenges?

**Possible Topics**
Papers should focus on how Islam relates to key cross-cultural issues facing Muslims, such as the areas listed below. We are also open to other topics that fit within the primary theme of this volume.

- Islam and Cross-Cultural Marriage and Family Life
- Workplace Prejudice and the Islamic Paradigm
- The American Criminal Justice System, Prejudice and the Islamic Paradigm
- Islam and Cross-Cultural Social Responsibility
- Gender, Sexuality, and the Islamic Paradigm
- Racism and the Islamic Paradigm
- Affirmative Action and the Islamic Paradigm
- Islam and Human Rights
- Politics, Prejudice, and the Islamic Paradigm
- The African American Civil Rights Movement and the Islamic Paradigm
- Intergroup and Intragroup Cross-Cultural Issues in the Muslim American Community
Guidelines for Authors

*The Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice Invites:*

- Social sciences and humanities-based research papers reflecting on all aspects related to Islamic faith and its practice in America.
- Abstracts of dissertations, thesis, and research findings related to the American Muslim community of 700-1000 words.
- Shorter reflection pieces of 2,000-3,000 words by activists, imams, chaplains.

**Assembly of the Manuscript:** Standard research papers should be 7,000-10,000 words in length or longer if approved by the editor. The article should be in Microsoft Word format. All submissions must conform to the *Journal* guidelines: original, unpublished research; double-spaced and single-sided; and conform to the Chicago Style. A manuscript contains many parts: Title of the paper with an abstract and 3-5 keywords, text of the paper, references, footnotes, tables, figures, and appendices. Not all papers have all elements. However, if they do, this is the order in which they should be arranged.

**Submission of Manuscript:**

- Send a brief note of intent to contribute noting the type, scope, and focus of what you wish to be included in the *Journal* by April 30, 2019. You will receive a note of acceptance / non-acceptance by the end of May.
- Send the completed paper by September 15, 2019 as an attachment, along with a 250-word abstract and a short bio
  - Decision Date: May 30, 2019
  - Submission Deadline: September 15, 2019
  - Publication Date: March 2020

Submissions are accepted via e-mail: journal@islamicseminary.org

The successful proposals may be invited to present their papers to the *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* workshop at the Islamic Seminary Foundation’s annual Shura at Yale University in March 2020.

**Subscription Information**

*The Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* has access to the subscription of e-journals for individuals and libraries. If you are interested, please contact us at journal@islamicseminary.org

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Chaplain Sohaib Sultan, Princeton University
Chaplain Nisa Muhammad, Howard University
BIOGRAPHIES

Conference Leadership Bios

Track A Dean: Quaiser Abdullah PhD – Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Dr. Quaiser Abdullah is a police chaplain, the Temple University MSA advisor, and teaches courses on adult learning, leadership, communication, conflict resolution, organizational development, research methods and technology in educational settings in the Department of Policy, Organizational and Leadership Studies at Temple University. Dr. Abdullah’s research interests center around leadership, organizational development, and identity and conflict. He has a number of published interviews on the topic of religion and identity in public spaces in various news media. He plans to continue his research in the area of leadership development and how it impacts identity formation in minority communities. He is also a frequent guest presenter to local and national audiences on topics relating to Islam, identity, and conflict. Quaiser is a certified conflict resolution in education trainer, professional coach, positive discipline educator and a trained mediator and conflict coach. He additionally serves on the Boards of Directors of The Interfaith Council of Greater Philadelphia, the Good Shepard Mediator Program, and AMC.

Sharetae “Nasiha” Adkins BS – Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Nasiha Adkins holds a BS in Public Health from Southern CT State University. Nasiha has spent the last 5 years working in the field of community public health; primarily focusing on positive interventions for dually diagnosed homeless individuals in New Haven County. She has been a Shura conference volunteer since 2012, serving several years as Head Registrar. Nasiha also provides resume building workshops free of charge to members of her community. Now recently married with a little girl, she has started a small family-owned business selling unique Islamic gifts and party supplies.

Conference Chair: Chaplain Omer Bajwa MA-GC

Chaplain Omer Bajwa is the Director of Muslim Life in the Chaplain’s Office at Yale University. He earned his Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary, and he has been engaged in religious service, social activism, and educational outreach since 2000. He received his MA in Near Eastern Studies with a specialization in Islamic Studies from Cornell University’s Department of Near Eastern Studies. Ch Bajwa also earned an MS in Communication from Cornell, and a BA in English Literature and Rhetoric from Binghamton University. His interests include Islam in the United States, inter-religious engagement, and Islam and the global media. He regularly lectures about these topics and others at campuses, congregations, and in communities across the US. Chaplain Bajwa is a former VP of Education Chaplaincy for AMC and a founding board member of ISF, as well as a member of the founding editorial board of the Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice.

Jaye Boz MA-GC – Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Jaye Starr Boz is an aspiring hospital chaplain and a volunteer with the Association of Muslim Chaplains. She is a graduate of the Hartford Seminary Islamic Chaplaincy Program and lives in Michigan with her husband, Chaplain Mustafa Boz, and their two children Zuzu and Izzy.

Track C Dean: Aqil Hashim LCSW

Aqil Hashim LCSW accepted Islam during the month of Ramadan in 1988. He had graduated from Bryant University in 1984 with a BS in Business Administration. In 1990, he made a career change and entered the field of addiction services working as a rehabilitation counselor. It was at this time that he decided to return to school and enrolled at the UConn School of Social Work ultimately graduating with a MSW. Subsequently, he earned his licensure with the CT Department of Public Health as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). He continues to work in human services while assuming board member responsibilities with different organizations. He is the former VP of Masjid Al-Islam Board of Directors, the Secretary of MECC and the President of the Connecticut School of Survival, a martial arts organization located in New Haven CT.

Conference Dean: Prof. Jimmy Jones DMin, Board Chair– ISF / TISA – Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Prof Jimmy (James) Jones is Chair of the Department of World Religions and the African Studies Program at Manhattanville College (Purchase NY) where he is a full Professor and advisor to the MSA. Prof Jones has been a volunteer prison chaplain with the CT Department of Correction since 1980 and has served as a community-based mentor with the Yale-New Haven Hospital Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program. He is Chair of the board of the ISF/TISA and has consulted, trained, taught, and lectured extensively in the US and abroad. Dr Jones is an advisor to MECC and AMC and is on the national board of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). A marriage counselor for more than two decades, he holds an MA in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a DMin from Hartford Seminary. He is the President of the Malik Human Services Institute, a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), and a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid trainer. Prof. Jones is a founding editorial board member of the Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice, his most recent writing and research efforts have focused on the intersectionality between Islamophobia and racism.
Registrar: Mariam Kanaan BS – Head Registrar, Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Mariam Kanaan, a Connecticut native, works as a behavioral technician at A Piece of the Puzzle, LLC. In addition to being a direct support professional, she is an entrepreneur. She is currently pursuing her M.A. in Developmental Disabilities at Columbia University and has completed her BA in Speech Language and Hearing Sciences at the University of Connecticut. Mariam has served as the assistant registrar for the Shura Conference for several years and is this year’s Head Registrar. She is also the Marketing Assistant for the New Haven Enrichment Center (N.I.C.E.) and is a volunteer Arabic translator helping to resettle Syrian families with The Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement (QCRR) Group.

Co-Chair: Chaplain Shazeeda Khan BA, President – MECC – Shura 1440 Planning Committee

Chaplain Shazeeda Khan has volunteered at the US Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury CT since 2005, serving Muslim women. In addition, she serves as the Director of Islamic Education for the Baitul Mukarram Masjid of Greater Danbury. Since 2000, Chaplain Khan has served on the board of the Association of Religious Communities (ARC), an interfaith community service organization. She is currently President and one of the founding board members of MECC. Aside from her community work in the state of Connecticut, she also serves as Secretary of the Board of the governing body of The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA).

Research and Strategic Planning - Dean: Bonita McGee MA

Bonita R. McGee MA, Vice President of the ISF/TISA, formerly served on the board of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA (ISSA-USA), a national organization that addresses social issues, promotes social work and related fields in the Muslim Community, and provides trainings and assessments for communities in need to address the issue of domestic violence. She is also a former 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 Master’s degree in Islamic Sciences from the Cordoba University Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Taha Al-Alwani (RA).

Co-Chair: Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad DMin, President–AMC

Imam Salahuddin M. Muhammad DMin worked 28 years as a chaplain before retiring from Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon NY. He also retired as Senior Imam of Masjid Al Ikhlas after 26 years of service in Newburgh NY. Additionally, Dr Muhammad is a retired contract chaplain having served 17 years at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson NY. He is currently: President of the Alumni Council and Executive Board member of Hartford Seminary; President of AMC; Associate Imam of As Salaam Islamic Center in Raleigh NC; Secretary for the Triangle Imams Council (TIC). Imam Muhammad is a member of Muslims for Social Justice (MSJ), and a member of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). He is also the author of Bridging the Divide between Immigrants and African American Muslims by Using the Concept of Tawheed as the Catalyst.

Associate Conference Dean: Matiniah Yahya

Chaplain Matiniah Yahya MEd is an educator, community chaplain, Master Disaster Chaplain (Islamic Relief) and former full-time chaplaincy resident at Yale-New Haven Hospital’s Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) training program (completing a total of 4 units of CPE). Chaplain Yahya has been a volunteer hospital and prison chaplain, as well as a Muslim marriage and family counselor for more than a decade. She is also VP of the newly established Malik Human Services Institute and has also served as VP for Community Chaplaincy and Education Chair for AMC. Currently VP of the board of MECC, Matiniah Yahya holds a BS in Human Services from Southern New Hampshire University and a Master’s in Education from Wheelock College. At present, Matiniah Yahya teaches first grade at the Noble Academy in Quincy MA and is the Director of Masjid Al-Islam’s annual Muslimah Getaway women’s retreat.
Presenters

Rania Awaad MD

Prof. Rania Awaad MD

Rania Awaad, MD is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Stanford University School of Medicine where she is the Director of the Muslim Mental Health Lab and Wellness Program and Co-Director of the Diversity Clinic. She pursued her psychiatric residency training at Stanford where she also completed a postdoctoral clinical research fellowship with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Her research and clinical work are focused on the mental health needs of Muslims. Her courses at Stanford range from instructing medical students and residents on implicit bias and integrating culture and religion into medical care to teaching undergraduate and graduate students the psychology of xenophobia. Her most recent academic publications include works on Islamic Psychology, Islamophobia, and the historical roots of mental health from the Islamic Golden Era. Through her outreach work at Stanford, she is also the Clinical Director of the San Francisco Bay Area branches of the Khalil Center, a spiritual wellness center pioneering the application of traditional Islamic spiritual healing methods to modern clinical psychology. She has been the recipient of several awards and grants for her work. Prior to studying medicine, she pursued classical Islamic studies in Damascus, Syria and holds certifications (ijaza) in Qur’an, Islamic Law and other branches of the Islamic Sciences. Dr. Awaad is also a Professor of Islamic Law at Zaytuna College, a Muslim Liberal Arts College in Berkeley, CA where she teaches courses on Shafi’i Fiqh and Women’s Fiqh. In addition, she serves as the Director of The Rahmah Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Muslim women and girls. At Rahmah, she oversees the Murbiyah spiritual mentoring program for girls. Dr. Awaad is a nationally recognized speaker, award-winning teacher, researcher and author in both the Islamic and medical sciences.

Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim BS

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 Connecticut 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. Imam Kashif is secretary for The New England Council of Masaajid, serves on the board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Connecticut (CAIR-CT) and is very active in community-wide justice initiatives. He was employed as a Connecticut state Juvenile Parole Officer from 1989 until 2010 and is a graduate of the 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.

Chaplain Samsiah Abdulmajid – MBA, MA-GC, BCC

Chaplain Samsiah is a board-certified health care chaplain at Westchester Medical Center (WMC), Valhalla, NY. She was Secretary of AMC, and Muslim chaplain at the boarding school Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, CT. Chaplaincy is her spiritual calling. Previously, for more than three decades, she worked with the United Nations. That experience gave her an appreciation of the human variety and compassion given emphasis in Al-Quran, which chaplaincy helps her express. She undertook Islamic and chaplaincy studies at Hartford Seminary. Her clinical pastoral education was at WMC and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Attorney Roula Allouch JD

Attorney Allouch is an active member of the legal community and the community at large. She currently serves as Chair of the National Board of Directors of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). She is also a member of the board of directors of the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative and serves as a Kentucky delegate to the Association’s House of Delegates. Ms. Allouch was recently recognized as a Daughter of Greatness by the Muhammad Ali Center and serves on the Center’s Board of Directors. Ms. Allouch is also a faculty member with the Islamic Seminary of America. Ms. Allouch earned her undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Kentucky in 2003 and her juris doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2006.

Prof. Ihsan Bagby PhD

Dr. Bagby is the President of the Islamic Seminary of America and Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Kentucky. He has a PhD in Islamic Studies from University of Michigan (1985). His research for the past 25 years has focused on the Muslim community in America, the American mosque and the African American Muslim community. He has conducted two comprehensive studies of mosques in America in 2000 and 2010, resulting in four monographs and seven articles or chapters in edited volumes. He served as lead researcher for the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) Remaking Muslim Spaces which led to the monograph “Creating the Welcoming, Inclusive, and Dynamic Mosque.” He also is a member of the Fiqh Council of North America and is Chair of the SHARE Center in Lexington, KY.
Chaplain Mustafa Boz MA-GC

Mustafa Boz holds a Master’s in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, and a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from the Hartford Seminary. His formal religious education began in a Turkish madrasa where he studied the Qur’an and Hadith tradition and then later obtaining his Bachelors in Islamic Studies from Ankara Divinity School. Mustafa worked for five years with the Connecticut State Prison System providing chaplaincy services and currently serves as a Muslim Chaplain for the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, Michigan. Mustafa is also passionate about interfaith and community work. While in Connecticut he was actively involved with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. As resident of the Michigan metro-Detroit area, he has been working to establish relations with the local communities and he is member of Michigan Imam’s Council.

Dr. Zahid Bukhari PhD

Dr. Zahid H. Bukhari serves as Executive Director of the Islamic Circle of North America Council for Social Justice (ICNA CSJ). Since 2004, he has also been serving as Executive Director of the Center for Islam and Public Policy (CIPP), Washington, DC. Previously, he worked as Director, American Muslim Studies Program (AMSP) at the Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. From 1999-2004, he also worked as Director, Project MAPS: Muslims in American Public Square. He has taught courses on ‘Muslims in America’ and ‘Islam in the West’ at Georgetown University. Dr. Bukhari’s research interests include Islam in the West; Muslims in America; religion and politics; and religion, humanitarian aid and development. He is also editor of the Project MAPS volume: Muslims’ Place in the American Public Square: Fears, Hopes and Aspirations; and the CIPP volume: Observing the Observer: The State of Islamic Studies in American Universities. From 2009-2012, Dr. Bukhari also served as National President of ICNA. He has also participated extensively in interfaith dialogues at local and national level. Dr. Bukhari has a Masters in Economics from the University of Karachi, Pakistan and PhD in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, USA.

Officer Robert Abdul-Aziz Horne

An army veteran, Robert Horne was born and raised in Baltimore MD. Officer Horne joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1994 and is currently assigned to the Community Collaboration Division under Acting Deputy Commissioner Melvin Russell. His job is to help men and women connect to reentry services upon being released from prison. He is also a volunteer Muslim Chaplain at the Maryland Reception Diagnostic Correctional Center where he conducts Friday Prayer service. Chaplain Abdul Aziz converted to Islam in February 1996. He has studied Arabic abroad in Egypt and Yemen. Officer Horne is a liaison for the Muslim Community in Baltimore as well as for the refugees who are now living in Baltimore from Yemen, Iraq, and Syria.

Chaplain Shareda Hosein MA-GC

Shareda identifies as a community Muslim Chaplain in the greater Boston area, as a speaker and educator. She is a member of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Seminary Dallas, TX, focusing her work on Moral Injury as it relates to Muslim Veterans in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. She received her MA-GC from Hartford Seminary and then became the Muslim Chaplain at Tufts University in 2007. As a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Shareda was mobilized to serve at Special Operations Command and later to help men and women connect to reentry services upon being released from prison. She is also a volunteer Muslim Chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milam, Michigan. Mustafa is also passionate about interfaith and community work. While in Connecticut he was actively involved with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. As resident of the Michigan metro-Detroit area, he has been working to establish relations with the local communities and he is member of Michigan Imam’s Council.

Chaplain Celene Ibrahim PhD

Celene Ibrahim, PhD, is an author, university chaplain, and consultant. She is the editor of One Nation, Indivisible: Seeking Liberty and Justice from the Pulpit to the Streets (forthcoming in 2019, Wipf & Stock Publishers), and is completing a scholarly monograph with Oxford University Press. Dr. Ibrahim is the Muslim Chaplain at Tufts University and offers courses at the Boston Islamic Seminary and at Hartford Seminary. She held a joint faculty appointment at Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School where she co-directed the Center for Inter-Religious and Communal Leadership Education and served as a faculty associate of the Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership. Ibrahim earned a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations from Brandeis University, a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School, and a bachelor's degree with highest honors from Princeton University.

Prof. Lance Laird ThD

Dr. Laird is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Director of the MS Program in Medical Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Practice at Boston University School of Medicine. He holds an MDiv and a ThD, the latter in Comparative Religion/Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School. Lance has published studies of American Muslim community-based health organizations (with Wendy Cadge), Muslim physicians (with Abu-Ras and Senzai), and Muslim chaplains in NYC (with Abu-Ras).
Ch. Aida Mansoor MA-GC

Chaplain Aida obtained her Joint Honors BS degree in Biochemistry/Physiology at King’s College, University of London, and has a Master’s Degree in Community Health. Aida received a Master’s Degree in Religion with a focus in Christian-Muslim Relations from the Hartford Seminary in 2016 where she received her Islamic Chaplaincy Certificate in 2012. Chaplain Mansoor has been presenting about Islam since 1999 in various settings. She is a board member of the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding, the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, and the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. She is an advisor for St. Francis Hospital Pastoral Service Committee and was awarded the Human Relations Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice in 2011. Aside from being a community Chaplain, Aida Mansoor recently began working in Admissions at Hartford Seminary. She hopes to encourage more Muslims to invest in Chaplaincy as a career.

Chaplain Khadijah Matin DMin

Dr. Matin has established a solid record of commitment to education and faith-based organizations, serving in multiple leadership and organization development roles as training manager, national board member and ongoing consultant. Khadijah conducts extensive research in regards to the role family history plays in shaping identity and community. As a staff member in Organizational Development and Learning at New York University Langone Health Khadijah specializes in curriculum development and cultural competence and change management. She also serves on the Spiritual Care Advisory Group, providing guidance to the CPE program and services and serves as an on-call chaplain and community liaison. She is a member of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society; and a former board member of AMC.

Chaplain Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad MS MSW BCC

Chaplain (LTC) Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, (US Army-Retired), was affirmed as the first Muslim Chaplain in the US Armed Forces, the Pentagon, 3 December 1993. Shortly after military retirement in October 2012, Imam Muhammad became the Nation’s first full-time Muslim Chaplain with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has thirty-five years plus clinical and human services experience, supervisory and administrative expertise in mental health, substance use disorders and systems management and has served as one of the Army’s National Strategic planners and trainers on suicide awareness and prevention programs. In addition, Imam Muhammad serves as a consultant on Islamic Affairs and Chaplaincy, as well as the Ecclesiastic Endorsing Agent for Islamic Society of North America. He is a co-author of and contributor to Diversity in Human Interaction: The Tapestry of America 2004, Oxford Press Publication.

Chaplain Nisa Muhammad MA-GC

Nisa Muhammad is the Assistant Dean for Religious Life at Howard University. She is responsible for religious programming including the Muslim worship services. In addition, she advocates for the religious needs of a diverse student population, teaches nonacademic Islamic studies classes and works closely as part of the staff in the Office of the Dean of the Chapel. She organizes the summer Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School program, is the advisor to the Justice for Juniors Advocates Organization, the Muslim Students Association and the Chess Club. She’s published in the Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice, Winter 2018 and in the National Association of Campus and University Chaplains Journal 2019. She is a 2017 graduate of Hartford Seminary, with a Master’s Degree in Islamic Studies and a graduate certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy. She is currently a Doctor of Ministry student at Howard University’s School of Divinity.

Imam Bilal Prather BS

Bilal Prather is Associate Imam, Avondale Islamic Center MD; Clinical Chaplain at the Reentry Sanction Center, Washington, DC; Muslim Chaplain for the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Washington DC, Muslim Chaplain at Howard U. Hospital. He is former assistant of the Founder of Millati Islami, Imam Zaid Imani (RA). He works with Millati Islami Services and Shelter DC, which operates an emergency/reentry housing program. Chaplain Prather has a BS in psychology from Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia.

Chaplain Leenah Safi MDiv

Leenah Safi was born in Springfield, Illinois and grew up in Ann Arbor, MI. In 2014 Leenah earned her BA in Islamic Law and Theology from Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA. She went on to complete a Masters of Divinity in Inter-religious Engagement and Chaplaincy at the Chicago Theological Seminary. She currently serves as chaplain with the Felicity Foundation on the campuses of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and at Wayne State University in Detroit.
Prof Saher Selod PhD

Saher Selod is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Simmons University. She joined the Department of Sociology in 2012 after completing her PhD at Loyola University Chicago. Her research interests are in race and ethnicity, gender and religion. Her research examines how Muslim Americans experience racialization in the United States. Her book Forever Suspect: Racialized Surveillance of Muslim Americans in the War on Terror (Rutgers University Press 2018) examines how Muslim men and Muslim women experience gendered forms of racialization through their surveillance by the state and by private citizens. She has published several articles in journals like Sociology Compass, The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, and Ethnic and Racial Studies. She is on the editorial board of Ethnic and Racial Studies and is currently co-chairing the Section for Racial and Ethnic Minorities for the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She is a member of the Scholars Strategy Network and is an affiliated faculty member of the Islamophobia Studies Project at the University of California, Berkeley.

Moderator Bios

Chaplain Mukhtar Curtis PhD

Chaplain Mukhtar Curtis PhD was a Chaplain on staff of the United States Bureau of Prisons (BOP) from 1993 to 2013. 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 Master’s in Linguistics from the University of Michigan. In addition, he holds a Degree in Economics from Howard University and has participated in Al-Ameen Associates Summer Intensive Arabic and Quran Program at Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt. He is a member of the MECC Advisory Board.

Dr Reza Mansoor MD

Dr Reza Mansoor is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology and practices as a cardiologist at Hartford Hospital. He completed his medical degree from St. George’s University School of Medicine and his medical internship at the University of Connecticut. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Mansoor is President of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, Advisory Board Member of Muslim Student Association – CT Council, Founding President of the Islamic Center of Connecticut and former President of the Islamic Council of New England. He is actively involved in the interfaith community and provides ongoing didactic presentations on Islam. He is First Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary.

Chaplain Joshua Salaam MA

Joshua Salaam is currently serving as the Muslim Chaplain at Duke University having previously served as the Chaplain and Youth Director at ADAMS Center. He was involved with Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) from its inception, a connection he maintained for twenty years as a participant and later as a counselor. He helped start MYNA Raps which later lead to the creation of the international music group, Native Deen. Joshua entered the Air Force and while working as a Military Police Officer, he helped to establish Friday prayer services on base where he later served as an Imam. He has worked as a drug resistance educator, private investigator, campaign manager, and in various community renewal capacities. He has also previously worked with CAIR and lectured at universities across the country. Chaplain Salaam holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master’s Degree in Religious Studies with a focus in Christian/Muslim relations from Hartford Seminary where he expects to finish his Doctorate of Ministry in 2020.

Moderator – Munir Shaikh MA

Munir Shaikh is Director of Academic Affairs & Planning at Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School in Southern California, where he oversees course planning, grant management, conferences and major projects. He holds an MA in Islamic Studies from UCLA and has participated in programs for advanced study of Arabic in Fes, Morocco and at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, and the study of Mediterranean history in Barcelona. He has taught university courses in World History, the Middle East, and Islam in Southern California. He has participated in numerous public education projects related to Islam and Arab culture and history; is a reviewer of K-12 world history textbooks and supplemental materials, and has provided professional development workshops to thousands of K-12 educators over the course of his career. He regularly provides public lectures addressing medieval Islamic/Arab culture, art, and literature, as well as contemporary interreligious and intercultural affairs.
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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 US. 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.

Mission

The Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC) supports the professional development of Muslims who provide spiritual care as chaplains in communities and in public/private institutions in the United States, while promoting the advancement of the field of Islamic Chaplaincy.

Vision

The Association of Muslim Chaplains seeks to be a professional organization in the service of Allah (God), guided by the Qur’an and Sunnah, through:

1. Offering regular trainings that promote the ongoing skill development of Muslim Chaplains.
2. Creating professional networks and connections between Muslim Chaplains that offer collegial nurturing and support.
3. Serving as an institution for Muslim Chaplains seeking certification and/or professional endorsement.
4. Supporting the development of cohesion and greater collaboration between Muslim Chaplains and Muslim communities.

Values

Our core values—drawn from the Qur’an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) - are as follows:

1. Ikhlas (Sincerity) – our intention is to act fi sabil Allah (for the sake of God).
2. Nasiha (Good Counsel) – our actions are in fulfillment of our religious obligation to provide nasiha (good counsel).
3. 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.
4. Haya’ (Dignity) – We strive in our deportment to demonstrate modesty, respect, honor, good morals and humility before Allah and those we serve.
Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut
A 501 3 (c) IRS tax-exempt organization

Board of Directors
President: Chaplain Shazeeda Khan BA
Vice-President: Chaplain Matiniah Yahya MEd
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Secretary: Aqil Hashim LCSW
Advisor: Prof. Jimmy Jones, DMin
Staff: Chaplain Abdulmalik Ngedu

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 Conference 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 and ultimately received federal 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. In the interim, Masjid Al-Islam Inc. in New Haven CT 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: Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC), 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), New England Council of Masajid, New England Muslim Sisters Association (NEMSA). All Praises and Gratitude are due to Allah - in 2016 MECC, Inc. has consolidated its relationship with the BOP as an approved endorsing by meeting with staff of the BOP at Hartford CT to discuss the relationship, MECC’s standards and Endorsement process. The BOP staff was impressed at the high quality level of MECC’s standards and endorsement process. MECC, Inc. continues its endorsement of new candidates in the chaplaincy areas of education, community, corrections, healthcare and military. In an effort to accommodate growth MECC, Inc. is now setting its sights on becoming a national endorsement council by partnering with a national organization. To this end MECC, Inc. meet with ICNA with a view to jointly developing a national board for endorsing chaplains nationwide.

Contact: Prof. Jimmy Jones  Phone: 203-376-7189  Email: mecc.endorse@gmail.com
Guiding Principles for an Islamic Seminary in the US
The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA)

Developed by the Islamic Seminary Foundation (ISF) in consultation with Muslims and people from other faith traditions since Shura 1432 (2011):

- 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 fiqhi 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 people of other faith (or no faith) traditions in order to contribute to the general American ethos and to facilitate the civilizational and interfaith dialogue 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.

Islamic Seminary Foundation

VISION:
A world constantly bettered by religious scholarship and ethical leadership. The Islamic Seminary of America, an Islamic Seminary Foundation institution, aspires to be a lighthouse of knowledge and faith devoted to equipping American-based leaders and serving as an authoritative voice for a balanced Islam.

MISSION:
To be the world’s preeminent community of scholars where generations of religious scholars and ethical leaders pursue the highest levels of knowledge, research and training, rooted in the Quran and Sunnah and integrating the rich traditions of classical Islamic knowledge with Western academic scholarship.

GOAL OF THE SEMINARY: to train and prepare American Muslim Leaders who are
- balanced in their understanding of Islam
- confident in their American Muslim identity
- committed to the vision of building a vibrant, engaged American Muslim community
- trained in the necessary organizational and communication skills in leading the American Muslim community

NEED FOR AN AMERICAN ISLAMIC SEMINARY
- Mosques are dramatically increasing in number, and by 2020 there is expected to be 1400 full-time, paid Imam positions. Most mosque leaders prefer American-born Imams who are trained both in the scholarly tradition of Islam and in the skills of serving the American Muslim community, but few exist.
- Mosque personnel (youth directors, executive directors, chaplains) need training in their fields.
- Volunteer Imams (largely African American) need to upgrade their Islamic knowledge
- Prisons, the armed forces, universities, hospitals and communities have a growing need for Muslim chaplains
- Foreign-born Imams need training in the skills of serving an American Muslim community.

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ISF: A brief overview

Thus, have We made of you an Ummat justly balanced, that ye might be witnesses over the nations, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves… (Al-Baqara, 2:143).

From its incorporation in 2011 up until the present, the Islamic Seminary Foundation Inc. (ISF) has viewed the sentiments expressed in this verse of the Qur’an as an important guide. That is, ISF has consistently focused its efforts on developing a quality education for Muslim American leadership that seeks to nurture this type of “middle community,” one that avoids extremes in faith and practice while serving as a role model for other communities.

Based upon this worldview, ISF has spent the last 7 ½ years consulting with individuals and entities within and outside the Muslim American community. The intent was to develop and shape an institution true to Prophetic principles while being firmly situated in and responsive to the particular challenges we face in this country at this time. From Al-Azhar University to Yale Divinity School, and many large and small institutions in between, ISF has consulted with institutional leadership, faculty, and students to develop a world class American Islamic seminary. In addition, for the past seven years, ISF has held an annual shura and in-service training at Yale University. Over the years, through this shura, we have consulted with various imams, chaplains, scholars, and other professionals who provide services to the Muslim American community from all over the country and world. While these approaches do not represent a systematic empirical needs assessment for an American Islamic Seminary, the concepts ISF has developed through these convenings and consultations have been very much influenced by these diverse groups of thinkers.

Since its inception, ISF has co-sponsored numerous courses and workshops. Titles of these educational offerings included: “Prophetic Strategies for Working with Youth,” “Contemporary Readings of the Qur’an,” “Islamic Communities in America,” “Counseling Muslims: The Basics,” “Effective Islamic Chaplaincy in Various Settings,” “Foundations of Effective Organizational Leadership,” Islamic Counseling 101: The Basics,” “Islamic Counseling 101: Couples Counseling,” and “Islamic Counseling 101: Domestic Violence.” In addition, ISF coordinated the Bilal Initiative that was focused on encouraging honest dialog in the Muslim Community about issues of race and prejudice. ISF-coordinated workshops were held at national conferences and meetings of the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC). ISF was also a consultant to the Muslim Endorsement Council of CT (MECC) in the development of its standards and processes for the endorsement of Muslim chaplains.

On April 3, 2017, ISF signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA) which had been in operation since August of 2016 in Dallas, Texas. All of the then board members of TISA (Sh Khalil Abdur Rashid, Dr. Abdul Ahad Hayee and Sh Omar Suleiman) signed the MOU that transferred the name, all assets, and ultimate authority for the operation of TISA to the board of directors of ISF.

In its inaugural year (2016-2017) the Texas-based TISA taught over 400 adults, mentored over 200 youths, led an Umrah trip, sponsored several family oriented social-educational activities and partnered with Southern Methodist University (SMU) in developing and launching a unique Master of Liberal Studies degree program with a self-designed concentration in Islamic Studies. Spearheading all of this was Sh Khalil Abdur Rashid (now Harvard University’s first full time Muslim chaplain) and his family.

Going forward, the “new” TISA (now managed by ISF) is currently reorganizing in a way that would facilitate expansion of its student base to a national one. As ISF does so, it intends to be firmly rooted in Prophetic principles while acknowledging the impact of the modern American context. In brief, ISF intends to be: Qur’anic in its epistemology by ensuring our work is based on academic and Islamically rigorous precepts, while being an institution that helps produce a more positive, balanced narrative on Islam and religion in this country and the world; inclusive in its weltanschauung by striving to make its offerings attractive and accessible to the rich multi-cultural, economically-diverse mosaic that is the Muslim American community, as well as to people of other faith traditions; contextual in its praxis by being attuned to the spiritual, organizational, and humanitarian needs of Muslims and others living in America. ISF also publishes the Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice.
**ACCREDITED GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

### M.A. - MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION | 48 UNITS (2 YEARS)

#### ISLAMIC STUDIES
- Provides significant grounding in the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition
- Offers advanced courses in Islamic Studies, Arabic language and texts
- Enhances academic research skills in preparation for doctoral studies

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15 COURSES + THESIS

#### ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP
- Provides significant grounding in the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition
- Develops community organizing, civic engagement, and public speaking abilities
- Cultivates transformative organizational leadership qualities

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15 COURSES + THESIS

#### ISLAMIC EDUCATION
- Provides significant grounding in the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition
- Develops Islamic educational thought, critical pedagogy, curriculum design, and technology integration
- Offers course specializations for school administrators and classroom educators

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15 COURSES + THESIS

### M.Div. - MASTER OF DIVINITY | 72 UNITS (3 YEARS)

#### ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY
- Provides significant grounding in the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition
- Develops understanding of theories and practices of spiritual care and counseling, integrating Islamic concepts and approaches
- Enhances interfaith and intercultural leadership and pastoral competencies in chaplaincy settings (hospitals, prisons, armed forces, university campuses)

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24 COURSES

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MUSLIMAH GET-A-Way 2019

October 5th & 6th 2019

Retreat Camp Washington, Lakeside CT
Main House
$200: twin beds, clean spacious, *bedding supplies provided
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The retreat site is safe, green and spacious. Registration includes: Room and board, halal meals, access to all activities! This is 'YOUR TIME'

Muslimah Get-A-Way
Masjid Al-Islam (CT) admin@masjidalislam.net

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Candice Islaah Abd'al-Rahim M.ed
Writer, Educator, Community Activist, Principal at Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB) / Al-Rahmah School
M.A. in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University, B.A. from Coppin State University

Dr. Sara King Yilmaz, MD MSPH
Internal Medicine, Board Certified
Ummah Health, Director
Medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine and has been in practice between 6-10 years.

Retreat includes: Qiyamul layl, exercise room, vendors, entertainment, special activities for teens, relaxation, group games, mini-SPA, BBQ lunch, a formal Dean & Dine Dinner!

Online registration in the near future
Contact us at 203 376 7189

National Shura and In-Service Training for Chaplains and Imams
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For more information
Email: admin@masjidalislam.net
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SAVE THE DATE
SHURA 1441 Inshallah
March 21, 2020 - Rajab 26, 1441

SPECIAL THANKS TO
the many who assisted with Shura 1440
including...

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Our mission is to be the world’s preeminent community of Scholars where generations of religions scholars and ethical Leaders pursue the highest levels of knowledge, research, and training, rooted in the Quran and Sunnah while integrating the rich traditions of classical Islamic knowledge with Western academic scholarship.

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Email: info@islamicseminary.org
Phone: 469-450-2969