Annual Report 2020



ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM CHAPLAINS



As-Salaamu 'Alaikum,

The Association of Muslim Chaplains is dedicated to serving the needs of our members. This year's Annual Report is all about capturing the dynamic quality of events and services that happened in spite of the COVID-19 and systemic racism-related trauma that we experienced. This year's passionate executive board rose to the challenge and offered an exciting, game-changing year of programming.

For all of its challenges, 2020 has been a tremendous year of growth for AMC. As our members provide spiritual care rooted in Islam to those deeply in need of the rahma (compassion) they offer, AMC's ability to support our chaplains with subba (fellowship) while cultivating their skills, creating spaces for reflection, and documenting their ministry efforts has been critical to growing and sustaining their, and our, collective capacities.

On every page of this report, we introduce you to the inner workings of AMC, the engines that keep us running strong. You will see faces, smiles, passionate hearts, and boundary-pushing minds. In short, our chaplains. May Allah continue to bless our work.

We seek your forgiveness for any mistakes or shortcomings we've had this year, give thanks to Allah for that which has been bestowed upon us, and ask for your prayers as we move into 2021 together.

Your Humble Servants,

The Board of the Association of Muslim Chaplains

President Ch. Dr. Nisa Muhammad Secretary Ch. Usama Malik Treasurer Ch. Dr. Quaiser Abdullah VP of Healthcare Ch. Sondos Kholaki VP of Corrections Ch. Mustafa Boz VP of Community Ch. Aida Mansoor VP of Education Ch. Joshua Salaam VP of Military: currently vacant Membership Chair Ch. Jaye Starr Professional Development Chair Ch. Mira Abou Elezz Communications Chair Ch. Mouhamadou Diagne Development Committee Chair Ch. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad Research Committee Chair Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid





EDUCATION

- April: Ch. Dr. Joshua Salaam was appointed Vice President by the President to complete the term when former VP Ch. Dr. Nisa Muhammad was appointed to fill the role of President
- June: 2 Huddles: Check-in and conversation in response to racial violence
- June 30 three of our chaplains participated in the virtual International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education Conference
- July: Huddle conversation on best practices around students returning, virtual programming, and self-care
- August 12: Guest Brian Landau presented VENNLY, a tool to help religious leaders get their message out
- August 27: Huddle to discuss (1) best practices serving students traumatized by the on-going brutal treatment of black people and (2) addressing the Sunni-Shia day of Ashura divide
- September 10: Conversation on OWNING CHAPLAINCY. Discussed the need to create clear language describing the work we do as chaplains. How do we get chaplains on the same page using the same language?
- September 24: Presentation by Salman Khan. A Ph.D. student at Harvard is also working on a side project to create a system to rate Muslim Life experiences on campuses.
- October 8: Chaplain-ing The Chaplains: Discussion on pastoral care for colleagues
- October 22: Huddle sharing mawlid plans and connecting to the message of Mercy during elections tensions
- November 12: Huddle check-in focused on the elections and political climate
- December 14: Huddle discussion on ways to collaborate among ourselves

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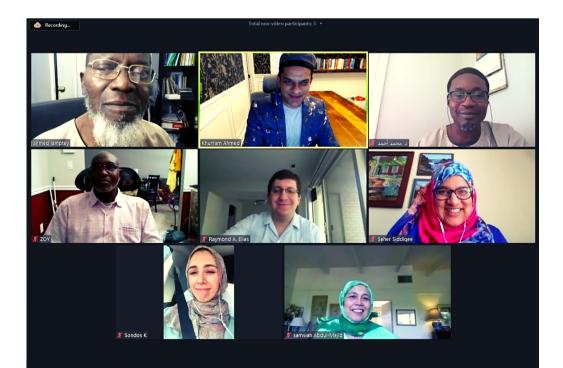
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HEALTHCARE

- March & April: Weekly Ramadan Huddles of Dhikr and Reflection
- May: Religious Perspectives on Artificial Nutrition and Hydration at End of Life: An Ethico-Religious Discussion with Ch. Ali Candir and Deacon David Garvis
- June: Racism in the Healthcare Setting facilitated by Chs. Jaye Starr and Kamau Ayubbi
- July: Spiritual Assessment Primer presented by Ch. Jawad Bayat
- August: In Conversation with a UK-based Healthcare Chaplain
- September: Cognitively-Based Compassion Training
- October: Two-day Healthcare Cohort Conference, The Beauty Within organized by Ch. Khurram Ahmed with support from Ch. Jaye Starr
- Speakers & Topics: Case Study Presentation Understanding Prophetic Chaplaincy through the Lens of Spiritual AIM (facilitated by Ch. Sondos Kholaki), Discussion - Chaplains Creating Value: Integration in Interdisciplinary Care (facilitated by Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid, featuring Chs. Sakinah Alhabshi and Taqwa Surapati), Lessons from My Time as a Crisis Text Counselor (facilitated by Ch. Khurram Ahmed), Practical Theology and Ethics in Islamic End-of-Life Care (facilitated by Ch. Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh), Story Theology - Interactive spiritual assessment Tool in Practice (facilitated by Ch. Khurram Ahmed, featuring four volunteer attendees), Understanding Domestic Violence (facilitated by Ch. Mira Abou Elezz and Guest Presenter Tasnia Ahamed), Caring for our Amanah Workshop: An Act of Ibadah (facilitated by Ch. Jaye Starr), Discussion on Excerpts from Harriett Washington's 'Medical Apartheid' (facilitated by Dr. James Jones)
- November: Huddle conversation focused on Muslim Spiritual Care
- December: Check-in Huddle







OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Healthcare chaplains led an initiative to record brief clips for AMC's YouTube channel on various topics pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic such as virtual funerals, tele-chaplaincy, and grief. The clips were widely circulated among spiritual care professionals and received positive feedback and nearly 2,000 views
- Ch. Khurram Ahmed developed a COVID-19 Muslim end-of-life resource guide for hospital staff, available in both English and Spanish
- Ch. Taqwa Surapati developed a guide for hospital staff to support Muslim patients dying alone
- Ch. Sondos Kholaki developed a COVID-19 Ramadan resource guide for hospital spiritual care providers
- Chs. Jaye Starr and Kamau Ayubbi presented on Developing Resilience in Yourself and Others During Covid-19 Pandemic, the recording of which is available on the AMC website

COMMUNITY

- May: Ch. Asma Hanif resigned as Vice President in June and Ch. Aida Mansoor was appointed by the President to complete the term
- June: Check-in Huddle
- July: Part I: LGBTQ Spiritual Care with Ch. Sondos Kholaki
- August: Part II: LGBTQ Care Case Studies
- September: Huddle conversation on suicide & loneliness
- October: Check-in Huddles
- November: Suicide Prevention with Ch. Khurram Ahmed
- December: Mind-Body-Soul Check-in Huddle

MILITARY

- March: Check-in Huddle
- April: Check-in Huddle
- August: Ch. Taha El-Nil resigned, a replacement has not yet been appointed

CORRECTIONS

- October: Huddle conversation on COVID care
- November: Ch. Muhammad Ali resigned as Vice President, Ch. Mustafa Boz appointed by the President to complete the term
- November: Check-in Huddle
- December: Tayba Foundation presentation on Islamic Distance Learning Program for Muslim prisoners



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FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

AMC's financial position for 2020 (as of the writing of this report) was both positively and negatively impacted by COVID-19. Due to the pandemic, we were able to minimize overall expenditure, since we did not host the annual Shura Conference - our biggest expenditure item. AMC had already paid for plane tickets, many of which were not refunded but held as a credit for future travel.

Our donation goal for 2020 was \$2500. As of 11/30/2020, we are just over \$650 short of that goal. Our operating budget for 2020 was budgeted at \$10,125.

In summer 2020, AMC's treasurer learned that its 501(c)3 status was suspended due to failure to file tax documents for a period of time. We submitted the paperwork/application to get the status reinstated and have implemented a check-balance system to make sure the paperwork gets filed in a timely manner in the future.

Income	
Membership Dues	\$4,523.96
Donations	\$1,820.91
Lapel Pins - Fundraising	\$161.94
ACMC Merger Funds	2581.02
Total Income	\$9,087.83

Expenses	
Bank Fees	\$20.00
Fundraising - Lapel Pins	\$468.00
Honoraria	\$50.00
Dues Refunds	\$175.00
Shipping, Postage and Technology	\$456.05
Shura Travel	\$3,038.52
Website	\$158.67
Non-Profit Filing	\$600.00
Total Expenses	\$4,966.24

SOCIATION OF

Balance Summary	
Total Income	\$9,087.83
Total Expenses	\$4,966.24
Balance	\$4,121.59

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

AMC plans to redesign its website for 2021 and implement a Constituent Management System (CMS). These two goals will help AMC leverage the resources needed for better financial management and reporting, membership and donor management and decreased volunteer workload.





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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & PROGRAMING

- March: The Annual Shura for Chaplains, Imams and Community Providers in partnership with The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA) and the Muslim Endorsement Council (MEC) scheduled for March 21 & 22 at Yale University was initially delayed and ultimately cancelled due to COVID. The theme was "Sacred Activism: Islam & Cross-Cultural Competency" with an excellent line up of programs including a ten year retrospective to celebrate AMC's first decade. AMC is grateful to representatives Chs. Sharif Rosen and Ibrahim Long who were serving on the organizing committee as well as the partner organizations and most especially Dr. James Jones who has led this initiative for the past decade.
- March: All Members COVID Check-in Huddle
- June: All Members Black Lives Matter Check-in Huddle
- June: Virtual tribute programing honoring Ch. Sohaib Sultan organized by Ch. Maryam Sharieff during which various members and friends shared beautiful stories about the way that Ch. Sultan has touched their lives
- August: Anti-Racism Reading Group led by Ch. Shane Atkinson met four times reading The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- December: Believers Bail Out webinar
- Forthcoming January: The Conference Committee is hard at work organizing our first all member virtual conference to be held January 30th & 31st. The theme is Rooted in Faith. Confirmed keynote speakers are Dr. Kameelah Mu'min Rashad addressing trauma stewardship and Dr. Omid Safi speaking on the topic of prophetic radical love. Nearly twenty additional sessions covering a variety of topics relevant to chaplaincy will be convened along with a virtual bazaar featuring our program sponsors and networking opportunities. The Committee consists of Chs. Nisa Muhammad, Sondos Kholaki, Mouhamadou Diagne, Usama Malik, Nora Zaki, Aida Mansoor, Mira Abu Elezz and Jaye Starr.





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THE ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM

AMC MEMBERS HUDDLE

ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN OUR COMMUNITIES

JUNE 10, 2020 9 PM - 10:30 PM AMC

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN SOHAIB SULTAN

Please join the Association of Muslim Chaplains for a tribute in honor of our brother Chaplain Sohaib Sultan of Princeton University.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020 | 2 PM - 3:30 PM VIA ZOOM



spoken word, song video clips, visual art. etc. is welcome.

please contact Chaplain Maryam Sharrieff at maryam.sharrieff@post.harvard.edu to be placed on the itinerary line up





BELIEVERS **BAIL OUT**

SATURDAY, DEC **12 6PM EST** ABOLITION WEBINAR

A 90 minute presentation on Islamic perspectives on prison abolition and a discussion on spiritually sound alternatives. https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86210385024

And do you realize what is the steep road? It is the freeing of a human being from bondage" (The Holy Qur'an 90:12-13)

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Recommended Reading

Statement of Abolition over Reform

Islamic Perspectives on Prison Abolition

BBO conversation with Marc Lamont Hill

Muslims and the **Carceral State**

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTERS BEFOREHAND

Email questions to: mira.abouelezz@gmail.co

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CH. JAYE STARR, CHAIR

- Total membership: 161 chaplains (53 first time joins) and 4 educational institutions
- - Development of Educational Institution Membership Category
- - First members: American Islamic College, Bayan Islamic Graduate School, Hartford Seminary, The Islamic Seminary of America
- - Membership Benefits: Two annual facilitated huddles, advertisement and programming features on AMC's social media, acknowledgement on the AMC website, sharing of chaplaincy job announcements that AMC receives, an annual discernment panel
- - Annual dues \$150
- - Committee formed to evaluate applications and increase recruitment capacity with members: Chs. Sami Aziz, Tameer SayedAhmed, AbdulMalik Negedu, Syazana Duranni, Issa Kabeer, Sameer Ali

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CH. MOUHAMADOU DIAGNE, CHAIR

- April: Upgraded our newsletter service to Canva and named it The Muslim Gazette; newsletters were distributed in April, August, and November
- June: The LinkedIN group and page were consolidated, now with 100+ followers
- July: AMC surpassed 1,000 likes on our Facebook page
- Fall, ongoing: AMC has been accepting and evaluating bids for a website redesign and alternative communications tools for the newsletters that would allow better tracking
- November: Instagram account launched: @muslimchaplains now with nearly 80 followers
- December: A communications Committee was established comprising of
- Chs. Mouhamadou Diagne (Chair), Muhammed Aslan, Sultan-Diego LeBlonde, and Nora Zaki





DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CH. IMAD-AD-DEAN AHMAD, CHAIR

- Established in September with Chs. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad (Chair) and Zoya Mirza (member at large), Quaiser Abdullah (AMC Treasurer and therefore board liaison)
- Thanks to a generous invitation from The Islamic Seminary of America, Chs. Imad-ad-Dean and Zoya participated in a semester-long Islamic fundraising development course through TISA that was of tremendous benefit
- Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad facilitated the development and sale of AMC lapel pins which are available for purchase at \$12.99 (which includes shipping) under the donate tab of the AMC website
- In March the board was asked to commit to donating, 100% participation was quickly achieved
- AMC extends our gratitude to individual members who have taken the personal initiative to solicit donations from their larger social circles, jazak Allahu khayran.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

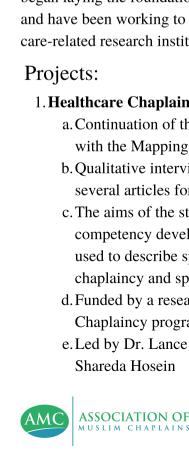
CH. SAMSIAH ABDUL-MAJID, CHAIR

In September AMC launched a research committee to support, conduct, and direct research on issues related to Islamic chaplaincy and the spiritual care needs of Muslims. The committee chair, Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid, is serving as a presidential appointee the first year and subsequently, the position will be open to the AMC membership for election every two years. Current members are Chs. Syazana Fatih, Amir Duric, and Eric Bridges, and the committee would welcome others. They began laying the foundation with an October grant writing workshop conducted by Ch. Eleanor Piez and have been working to establish relationships and partnerships with other chaplaincy/spiritual care-related research institutions and professional entities.

Projects:

1. Healthcare Chaplains Study

- a. Continuation of the collaboration between AMC and Boston University School that began with the Mapping Muslim Chaplaincy Project in 2018
- b. Qualitative interview study conducted with 20 healthcare chaplains completed this year, several articles forthcoming on the findings
- c. The aims of the study are: to examine Muslim healthcare chaplains' experiences of competency development, spiritual preparation, and professional certification; the language used to describe spirituality spiritual care, and to examine the integration of chaplains into chaplaincy and spiritual care teams.
- d. Funded by a research grant from the Association of Professional Chaplains-Transforming Chaplaincy program
- e. Led by Dr. Lance Laird of BU with AMC co-investigators Chs. Samsiah Abdul-Majid and Shareda Hosein



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2. Oral History Project

- a. Launched in 2020, this project entails collecting the oral history of Islamic chaplaincy through the stories of approximately 40 pioneers and pathfinder Muslim chaplains
- b. Dr. Nisa Muhammad has arranged for the interviews to be housed in the Howard University's Moreland Spingarn Research Library and thereby accessible to other researchers (notably Howard was the first university to appoint a Muslim chaplain, Imam Johari Abdul Malik, in 1998)
- c. A podcast series will be produced by AMC to share the stories
- d. Dr. Maysan Hayder and Br. Zaheer Ali, an oral historian and educator, conducted seminars for the project team, comprising Chs. Samsiah Abdul-Majid, Seher Siddiqee, Leenah Safi and Captain Rafael Lantigua.
- e. Interviews began in November with Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad, the country's first Muslim chaplain hired by a university (Bard College), and the second AMC President.

3. National Muslim Healthcare & Spiritual Needs Survey

a. The Research Committee represented by Ch. Samsiah Abdul-Majid has been in collaboration with the initiative on Islam and Medicine (II&M) pertaining to a needs survey; more information in the partnership section.

CONFERENCE REPORTS HURMA PROJECT CONFERENCE



Ch. Jaye Starr represented AMC at this January conference in Chicago facilitated by Dr. Ingrid Mattson to address spiritual abuse in the American Muslim community. A series of presentations were provided to help organizational leaders think about and develop their institutional capacity to prevent and address such abuse.



Chs. Seher Siddiqee & Abdul-Malik Merchant presenting at Hurma Project Photo Credit: Hurma Project

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA'S CONFERENCE

Chs. Muhammad Ali, Mouhamadou Diagne, and Sondos Kholaki represented AMC at the September Chaplaincy Conference gathering. The opportunity to do so provided critical insights into programming aspects of building a virtual conference, while providing networking and opportunities to promote AMC. Additionally Chs. Samsiah Abdul-Majid and Rafael Lantigua presented during the open conference on a panel moderated by Ch. Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad with several others in a session titled Challenges and Opportunities of Muslim Chaplains in American Institutions.

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PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

National Chaplaincy Associations

AMC has requested to join a major partnership organized between the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education, Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS), Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) and Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC). They have expressed interest in having us join but would like to work through the details and finalize the elements between the current members before adding additional ones.



Bayan Islamic Graduate School, Association of Muslim Healthcare Professionals & Islamic Medical Association of North America

AMC collaborated with the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), the Association of Muslim Healthcare Professionals (AMHP), and Bayan Islamic Graduate School in the development of a project titled Supporting Frontline Muslim Healthcare Providers which would have provided coping and resiliency-development focused programing. While it wasn't accepted, the process was tremendously beneficial for the learning process and allowed AMC to strengthen our partnerships. AMC was represented in this endeavor by Chs. Khurram Ahmed and Jaye Starr with support from Chs. Samsiah Abdul-Majid and Sondos Kholaki.



Black Muslim COVID Coalition

ASSOCIATION OF

AMC is represented on the Task Force's Spiritual Wellness Committee by Ch. Quaiser Abdullah; fellow Ch. Abdul-Malik Merchant is also a member. The Taskforce was created to address the need for effective planning, preparedness, and organizing during this global pandemic within Black Muslim communities.





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Chaplaincy Innovation Lab

AMC was able to offer members free access to trauma-informed facilitated support calls funded through the Henry Luce Foundation in addition to partnering with CIL for a discernment panel series. A number of AMC members have been featured in CIL webinars and projects throughout the year and CIL's leadership has been a tremendous source of support in a multitude of ways.



CAIR Collaboration

AMC is pleased to be partnering with the Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on the development of a multi-faceted project to support incarcerated Muslims. The project, currently pending funding, includes a part-time AMC staff member dedicated to recruiting and supporting Muslim corrections chaplains through proffesional development and guidance on furthering chaplaincy education for those currently without it. One of the primary goals is to increase the presence of trained chaplains in state and federal facilities to better ensure inmates access to their religious rights.



Muslim Endorsement Council

In February AMC entered into formal partnership with the Muslim Endorsement Council, formally "of Connecticut" but which has re-branded itself as a national organization dropping Connecticut both from its name and by-law board member restrictions. Under this partnership AMC has a representative seat on the board, currently filled by Imam Salahuddin Muhammad who recently completed his term as AMC Board President, and recruits from among its membership body chaplains to serve as subject matter experts during candidates' interviews. MEC is currently applying to be recognized as an endorsement agency by the Department of Defense.





Initiative on Islam & Medicine

AMC is co-sponsoring a national survey of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine (II&M) on Muslim American healthcare and spiritual needs in hospital settings launching in 2021 insha'Allah. These data will identify gaps in their healthcare, and will be used for policy recommendations and to support more detailed studies. Our Research Committee Chair is on the National Steering Committee of the project.



National Muslim COVID Task Force

The American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) formed a National Muslim Task Force in March to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. AMC is among the 40+ organizations represented on the Task Force. The Task Force aims to develop as close to a unified national vision and voice for guidance to Muslim organizations in how to safely and responsibly serve the wider community, where differing federal, state, and city mandates create confusion. Ch. Khurram Ahmed serves as AMC's delegate to the Task Force.



Prophet Muhammad's Love for Diversity and Inclusion Speakers Bureau

In April, AMC was approached by a foundation looking to address anti-Black racism in the Muslim community. AMC has subsequently submitted a funding application to develop a Black Muslim Chaplains Speakers Bureau that will, if funded, provide workshops to educate masajid and universities about Prophet Muhammad's love for diversity and inclusion, a virtual platform to host these workshops and a paid intern to coordinate speaking arrangements. Preliminary speakers available are Chs. Nisa Muhammad, Quaiser Abdullah, Mouhmadou Diagne and Maryam Sharrieff.





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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD

What follows are some of the notable highlights from the broader field of Islamic Chaplaincy

- Huron University & Respect Graduate School partnered to host a virtual conference on the topic of Islamic Pastoral and Spiritual Care During the Pandemic which involved two days of rich programing during which six AMC members were represented; among the speakers: Chs. Lauren S Schreiber, Khurram Ahmed, Samsiah Abdul-Majid, Abdul-Malik Merchant, Zubair Yousif, Dr. Bilal Ansari
- Ch. Dr. Bilal Ansari contributed a chapter titled "Muslim Pastoral Theology: A Brief Reflection of Black Shepherds and Black Sheep" to the book Postcolonial Images of Spiritual Care: Challenges of Care in a Neoliberal Age (Wipf and Stock, 2020)
- Hartford Seminary began transitioning from the 48 credit MA in Islamic Studies & Christian-Muslim Relations and 24 credit Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy to offering two MA degrees designed for chaplains: 36 Credit Masters of Arts in Chaplaincy and 36 Credit Masters of Arts in Interreligious Studies
- The Islamic Seminary of America partnered with United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities to offer an accredited M.Div. in Islamic Chaplaincy
- Respect Graduate School, in partnership with Charles Sturt University (CSU), launched the Master of Arts in Islamic Studies and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program accredited by CPSP.
- Boston Islamic Seminary received accreditation for their MA in Islamic Religious Leadership through the MA Board of Education with the intention of training, among others, chaplains
- American Islamic College received Candidacy Status for Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission for their M.Div. in Islamic Chaplaincy
- Chs. Muhammad Ali, Omer Bajwa, Sondos Kholaki, and Jaye Starr launched the Islamic Chaplaincy Book Project compiling essays by Muslim chaplains for publication
- Ch. Muhammad Yasir Khan appointed to serve as chaplain to the California State Legislature, the first Muslim to serve in this capacity nationally
- Dr. Timur Yuskaev, Co-Director of Hartford Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy Program, published a chapter titled "God's Mercy is Broader than This: Theological Sensibilities and Interreligious Theological Education" in the journal Critical Perspectives on Interreligious Education (Brill, 2020)
- AMC Institutional partner Bayan and HEART, in partnership with the Luce Foundation and Dr. Ingrid Mattson, launched a 15-hour online certification program for Imams, Chaplains, and community leaders called "Caring Communities: Taking on Gender-Based Violence."





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