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Conveners of Imams



Associated with the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed

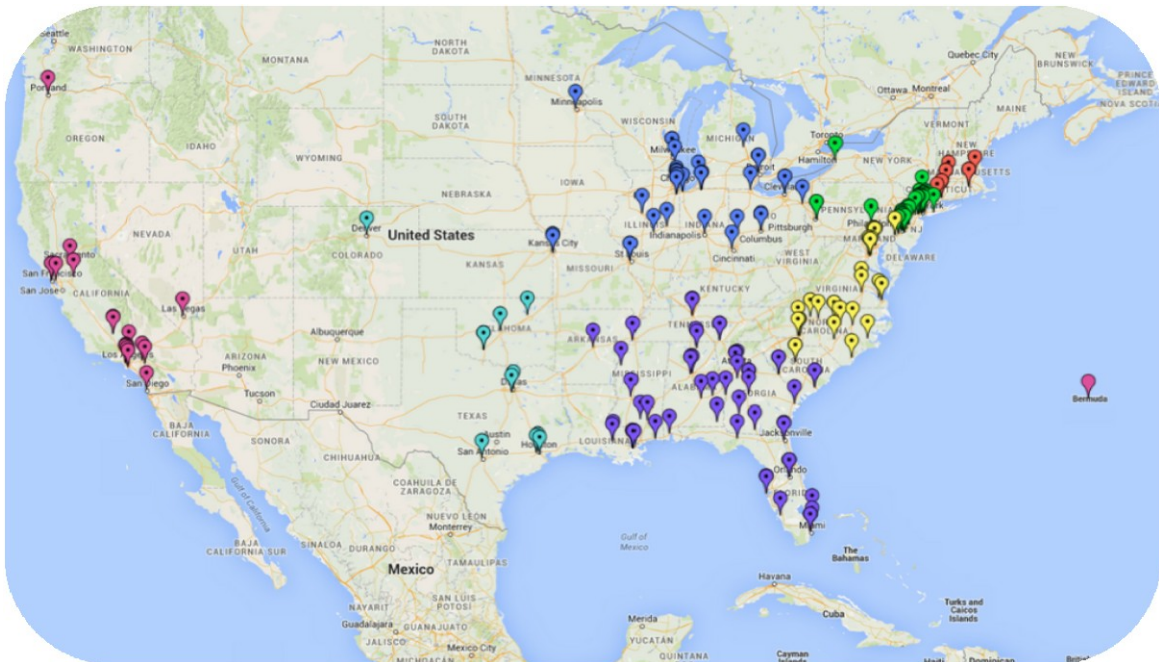
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2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM CONVENERS AND IMAMS OF THE COMMUNITY OF IMAM W. DEEN MOHAMMED

3/7/2015

THE COMMUNITY OF IMAM W. DEEN MOHAMMED



The Section Conveners

Imam
Bashir Ali
National/Midwest

Imam
Mubaashir Uqdah
Northeast

Imam
Taalib Mahdi
New England

Imam
Abdel Nuriddin
Mid-Atlantic

Imam
Wali Fardan
Western

Imam
Fahmee Sabree
Southwest

Imam
Yahya Islam
Southern

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Introduction

The Section Conveners of Imams are pleased to present our second annual report on the activities and achievements of Conveners, Imams, masjids, and local Islamic Centers of the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. As our community moves forward, it will be important to hold ourselves accountable and to communicate our activities and achievements on a regular basis. As we know, Imam W. Deen Mohammed challenged us to develop model communities and community life. It is our responsibility to bring that vision into reality. It will also be important to make an honest assessment of our challenges and initiatives as we progress in the vision. This report represents another step in that direction.

The Conveners' Report

During 2014, the Conveners continued and expanded several initiatives started in the previous year. These efforts focused on developing our community life and improving the communication process within the community on important issues. These initiatives included:

- Continuing the Community Leadership Summits
- Improving the community website
- Publication of major community announcements
- Promoting the National Shuraa process

In conjunction with the ***Community Leadership Summits (CLS)***, the Conveners traveled to two Sections of the country in 2014 to facilitate dialogue with local Imams and community leaders. The purpose of the CLS is to identify and discuss developmental needs of the community and explore effective strategies and solutions. The locations of the CLS for the past year were the Midwest (Cleveland, Ohio) and the West (San Diego, California). The Cleveland CLS was held on June 7th and the San Diego CLS was held November 15th.

In Cleveland, CLS participants reviewed the *Midwest Leadership Team* model. The *Midwest Leadership Team* is composed of Imams and other leaders whose purpose is to address the critical areas of community development including: Marriage and Family Life, Business and Economic Development, Education, Culture, and Government. Teams work throughout the year on specific strategies and present their progress at the annual *Midwest Leadership Conference*. Other important issues discussed in Cleveland were the conditions, criteria and process for leadership, representation and South African partnership opportunities. An important outcome for the Cleveland CLS was the consensus of the Conveners to pursue the *Midwest Leadership Team* model in each section.

In San Diego, CLS participants continued some of the discussions started in Cleveland. One of the presentations was a follow-up panel discussion with members of the *Midwest Leadership Team* on the challenges and benefits of implementing the team model. Three other presentations and discussions from the Conveners included: 1) Establishing Islamic Democracy 2) Community Representation Expectations and 3) Community Standards and Accountability. Participants gave valuable input on each presentation. The outcome for the San Diego CLS was an agreement by the Conveners and other participants to move forward with the development of concept papers on the three themes presented

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and discussed. The plan was to develop the three papers early in 2015 and distribute them to Imams, other leaders and believers for additional input.

The second major achievement for 2014 was the enhancement of the community website: ***iwdmcommunity.com***. Enhancements included adding and updating individual locations and contact information for the 200 masjids and centers visually portrayed on the website. Other enhancements included posting announcements relative to important dates and position statements and responding to posts from the public relative to questions or comments. Future plans for this year include completing masjid/center updates, including contact information with each link, and adding links to other community organizations and section websites. The profiles and contact information for each convener will also be added.

The Section Conveners expanded both internal and external communications with the publication and posting of major announcements and position statements. These included major postings and circulation of Ramadan and Eid announcements to Imams and the community. The postings included a detailed explanation of Islamic rationale for the decisions. A new development was the request by Imams and others to publish statements on behalf of the Imams and community. These statements included positions on 1) the kidnapping of Nigerian school girls by *Boko Haram*; 2) the situation in Gaza and the plight of the Palestinians and 3) the un-Islamic brutality of extremist groups such as the so-called "Islamic State" of Iraq and Syria (*ISIS*).

Section Conveners continue to promote the Shuraa process (am'rahum shuraa bay'nahum), which is decision-making through mutual consultation, by meeting and collaborating with the local Imams in each Section of the community. In the pursuit of improving our Islamic Democracy, the conveners encourage the practice of shura at the local, sectional, and national levels. They regularly call meetings throughout the year with the local Imams to promote collaboration on key issues and concerns. Having input and collaboration at all levels is key for good governance and good governance is critical for a model community life.

Plans for 2015 include moving forward on the progress of the last year and continuing to promote community development and improved communication in the vision of the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad and Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

The Section Reports

MIDWEST SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

The Midwest Section is pleased to report on the activities and accomplishments for the year 2014. Highlights include the Midwest Leadership Team and Midwest Imams' activities, the third annual Midwest Leadership Conference, the Community Leadership Summit hosted by the Midwest Section and the activities and highlights of Imams, believers, local masjids and Islamic centers in the Midwest.

The Midwest Leadership Team (MLT) met throughout the year to develop plans, strategies, and activities addressing the major challenges facing the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. A major accomplishment of the team was the launch of the new Section website midwestleaders.com. The MLT consists of eight teams, each focusing on a critical area of community development. In addition to working year-round, the team leaders serve as a steering committee and plan the annual Midwest

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Leadership Conference where they report to the community on their progress and get feedback from conference attendees. These leaders include:

- Imam Sulaiman Salaam, Kansas City, MO - Conference Chair, Culture Team Chair
- Imam Hameem Habeeb , Columbus, OH - Communications Team Chair
- Imam Askia Hameed, St. Louis, MO - Treasurer
- Sister Khadijah Aminah Muhammad, Indianapolis, IN - ACGG Regional Coordinator
- Sister Fareedah Sidqui Muhammad, St. Louis, MO-Business/Economic Development Team Chair
- Sister Rasheedah Bilal, Peoria, IL - Marriage and Family Life Team Chair
- Brother Mark Shaheed, St. Louis, MO - Marriage and Family Life Team Co-Chair
- Dr. Bennanaye Brooks, Cleveland, OH - Education Team Chair
- Sister Khalimah Azeez, Kansas City, MO/Cleveland, OH -Youth Engagement Team Chair
- Imam Bashir Ali, Peoria, IL - Midwest Imams Section Convener

The third annual Midwest Leadership Conference was sponsored by the Midwest Leadership Team and hosted by the believers of historic Masjid Bilal in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference was held on the weekend of April 18th-20th. Activities included Jumu'ah Prayer, Midwest Imams Meeting, Singles Social, Culture Night, presentations from Midwest Leadership Teams, conference dinner with achievement recognitions, and vending opportunities. The conference was held in the lower level of Masjid Bilal giving the participants an opportunity to appreciate this historic structure and assist in their fund raising effort to renovate the facility. The on-going purpose of the conference is to provide an interactive forum for addressing community development issues and strengthen communication and working relationships of believers in the Midwest.

On Friday, April 18th after Jumu'ah, the Midwest Imams held their annual meeting in conjunction with the conference. Highlights of the meeting included reviewing progress on the "Priorities Update" and discussing the reports from the Intellectual Properties and Sectional Governance Task Forces. Priority updates for the Midwest Imams included developing the skill sets of Imams, developing our collective community life, promoting the vision, thinking, and legacy of Imam W. Deen Mohammed and developing mechanisms for communication.

The Sectional Governance Task Force chaired by Imam Omar Hazim also gave a report. Highlights of the report included the recommendation of a dues structure to cover Section expenses, development of support mechanisms for Imams and their families and improving communication among Imams in the section. Additional discussion from the Imams centered on starting the process of non-profit incorporation for the Midwest Leadership Team and Conference and supporting the Marriage and Family Life Team.

Other conference highlights included recognition of those Imams that had retired from local resident leadership, and those Imams that have been selected into or taken-on new leadership roles. Imam Dr. Mikal Ramadan was recognized for his retirement from the Masjid Taqwa, Chicago, IL. Other Imams recognized for taking on new resident or local leadership responsibilities were Salim Mu'min, Detroit, MI; Muhammad Abdullah, Champaign, IL; Bilal Hazziez, Kansas City, MO, Omar Karim, Chicago, IL and Tariq El-Amin, Chicago, IL.

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On June 7th, the Midwest Imams, Imam Yusuf Ali, and the believers of Masjid Al Warith Deen of Cleveland, Ohio hosted, in conjunction with the Section Conveners, the Community Leadership Summit activities. The Section Conveners, national and regional community leaders participated in the summit. Highlights of the session included presentations from the Midwest Leadership Team, adopting the Midwest model for Sectional Leadership Teams, discussions on South African partnership opportunities and expectations for community leadership.

Also in June, three leaders from the Midwest Section represented the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed at the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. They included Sister Basimah Abdullah, Milwaukee, WI; Imam Ronald Shaheed, Milwaukee, WI; and Imam Michael (Mikal) Saahir, Indianapolis, IN.

On October 17th-19th, Imam Bilal Hazziez and the believers of the Kansas City area hosted the 3rd Annual Fountain of Abundance Legacy Conference. The conference focused on "the Four Birds" (Business, Education, Culture, and Government) and the theme was "Receive Your Inheritance—G-d Has Made You For Success." The conference was attended by believers throughout the Midwest and featured a number of prominent national leaders.

Imam Omar Hazim and the believers of The Islamic Center of Topeka (KS) partnered with the Methodist Church in Alta Vista (KS) for interfaith activities; donating food and clothing to needy local families, successfully raising about \$12,000 dollars for masjid improvements and working with the local news media to share important position statements from our community.

Finally, Imam Muhammad Siddeeq of Indianapolis, IN represented has been featured over 12 times on the Sean Hannity Fox News national network TV program discussing and debating current events relating to the terrorism, ISIS, the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis and the message of the Qur'an. He was featured in both individual interviews and panel discussions.

Al-hamdulliah and Shukran (THANKS!!!!) to all of the leaders and believers in the Midwest Section that worked so hard throughout the year to move our community forward!!!

NORTHEAST SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

Muslims in the Northeast Section are avidly working in many areas and ways. This report highlights a small portion of the accomplishments and progress that is being made. We expect to continue improving our reporting mechanisms so that our report will be more comprehensive and complete in the future. Here are a few highlights from the Northeast:

- Masjidullah of Plainfield New Jersey received its certification to operate as a full food pantry, after operating for 18 years as a growing weekly soup kitchen. Currently they are feeding over 60 people per week and after an expansion renovation, they will be able to operate a daily food program. They were also approved for a \$30,000 grant to perform renovations to accommodate the expansion.
- Masjidullah of Philadelphia Pennsylvania recently purchased the 500,000 parking lot across the street from its new multi-million dollar property and offices purchased in 2013. They have also completed the renovation of new facilities in their multi-million dollar multiplex of buildings, hosted major events at their facility, including the National Business Association Conference, the Halal Conference, and the Pre-Ramadan Banquet event that raised over \$90,000 in net profits and they have hosted numerous social, cultural, and political programs and forums. They have

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also opened a new day care for children 6 weeks to 6 years old, established adult and children's Islamic education programs.

- Masjid Yusuf Shah of Mt. Vernon New York is improving its bylaws, continues to feed the poor monthly, hold open house dawah efforts, conduct weekend Islamic classes and held Islamophobia and Walkathon major events.
- Masjid Nuriddin of Corona New York continues working together to keep the community strong despite having no masjid to meet in due to the horrific fire that destroyed it. They continue to teach Clara Muhammad School students despite having lost their building in the fire. The school was a first rate full time school whose graduates have gone to the finest colleges in the country. The radio program, New Day for Al-Islam in America, continues to broadcast and they continue their outreach efforts to the larger community of Non-Muslims.
- Masjid Ash-Shifaa of Newark New Jersey has continued to progress towards the construction of a masjid on their property. They have taken a more active role as an integral part of the South Ward of the city and were very active in the election of the current Mayor of Newark. They continue to be strong participants in the development of Muslim community life in the city.
- The Philadelphia Masjid of Philadelphia Pennsylvania resolved long-standing legal issues surrounding the change in leadership at the masjid. It has updated its bylaws, reconstituted its board of directors, implemented the masjid committee structure and is solidifying its direction and programs.
- The Islamic Center of Ewing New Jersey purchased a school bus for its weekend school. They also received the final building permit approvals for building a second floor to expand the Masjid. They have also established several new relationships with various interfaith organizations and community groups via their dawah efforts.
- Masjid Waarith ud-Deen of Irvington New Jersey, as host of the Council of Imams of New Jersey, helped facilitate the partnership between the Muslim Community and City National Bank of Newark to include accounts in New Jersey, New York and now working to establish accounts in Pennsylvania. They hosted important fundraising events towards their purchase of a new facility. The events included presentations by Dr. Akbar Muhammad (brother of Imam W. Deen Mohammed) on Islamic Ethics and Ethical Communities, as well as an outstanding tribute to its long-standing Imam Wahy ud-Deen Shareef.
- G.O.O.D.S.O.U.L.S of Paterson New Jersey started Qur'anic Arabic classes on Sunday afternoons and have acquired and installed a new sign on their building, increasing their visibility in the neighborhood.
- Masjid Ma'un of Willingboro New Jersey has been going out feeding the less fortunate on a regular basis and donates to organizations who are feeding and sheltering the needy. They continue to have Jumu'ah and participate in the Eid celebrations.

COMMUNICATION

AMONG IMAMS

In 2014, we saw an increase in participation at the quarterly face-to-face meetings, but the effort to conduct Shuraa via email between quarterly meetings has not yet met the desired level of effectiveness.

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COMMUNITY EMAIL NETWORKS

In 2014, our two major email networks, the Northeast Muslim Email Network and the Islamic Information System continue to grow and increase promotion of local events, businesses and a multitude of other information.

RADIO COMMUNICATION

- New Day for Al-Islam continues its great broadcasting on current events and politics with Imam Yusuf Ramadan and William Kareem.
- Masjid Adam continues to broadcast its show, which is focused on presenting updates its audience about the programs and events happening in the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. This program is hosted by Imam Rahim Abdul-Karim.
- A new program, Strategies of Success (S.O.S) was started in 2014 by Imam Shahid Abdullah. The program hosts a variety of guests and topics with a focus on keys to success for the progress for African Americans.
- Imam Izak-el Pasha, of Malcolm Shabazz Masjid, continues to broadcast The Thinker Radio Magazine, which focuses on playing lectures of Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

WEBSITES

In 2014, we had the goal of having all masjids with websites on the Internet so that we could display a window to our masjids in the Northeast Section. Over 50% of our masjids have websites, but we did not achieve 100% coverage. Our goal is to achieve this in 2015.

SOUTHWEST SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

The Southwest Section has been actively working in many areas. Some highlights of 2014 are:

- Successfully hosted the 5th annual Southwest section conference in Oklahoma City, Ok.
- Established Timbuktu learning Institute.
- Broke ground and began construction on the 5500 sq ft " Mu'min family life center (Islamic and community learning/activity facility). The expected completion date is by Ramadan 2015 in Oklahoma City.
- Purchased more property for the New African project in Little Rock AK.
- Houston Muslims purchased 2 lots for the development of a senior housing facility.
- Completed remodeling of the musallah, including the addition of a Mih'rab at Masjid W.D. Mohammed.
- Completed extensive remodeling at Masjid Al-Qur'an which doubled its capacity.
- Increased relationships and bridge building with other communities (both Muslim and people of other faith traditions)
- Increased Jumu'ah attendance in some areas by 30%.
- Established a new place of worship in Texas.

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- Increased our production of Halal meat and other health food.
- Some of the challenges we faced in 2014 were in the areas of:
- Health
- Communication
- Establishing economic resources
- How to involve young adults into community and leadership roles while maintaining the vision and commentary of Imam WD Mohammed (RAA)

SOUTHERN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

The Southern Section continued to be active and progressive throughout 2014. Their activities are wide-ranging, including in the areas of public service, dawah, interfaith and community life. Some of the highlights of the year were:

- The Muslim Center of Montgomery AL distributes food and clothing on a quarterly basis and they have a community dinner every month.
- The Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam of Atlanta GA continues nurture and run the exemplary Mohammed Schools system of education. The Clara Mohammed Elementary school and the W. Deen Mohammed High School have produced high achieving students year after year.
- Masjid Al-Mu'minun of Atlanta GA provides food pantry and prison services, it has an ongoing interfaith dawah effort and it features a weekend school.
- Masjid An-Nur of Columbus GA is also involved in providing community food distribution services to the hungry every month, they also conduct ongoing interfaith programs, Qur'anic Arabic classes, weekly prison services, monthly movie nights and a Hajj program.
- The Bilal Ibn Rabah Islamic Center of LaGrange GA provides thanksgiving meals to the hungry every year, they go out on street dawah each month, strengthen community life with Friday night community dinner each month and they engage in dawah twice a month with their radio dawah program.
- Masjid W. D. Mohammed of Macon GA, in addition to regular services, features Cable broadcasts every week to the community.
- The Biloxi Islamic Center of Biloxi MS conducts monthly dawah outings, monthly economic development workshops, and monthly family Sunday gatherings. They also provide Qur'anic Arabic classes.
- Masjid Al-Halim of New Medinah MS houses a Clara Muhammad School, which includes an online school accommodating students from anywhere in the country. The New Medinah community owns hundreds of acres of property with its own Islamically named streets, burial grounds, homes and community center. They host an annual retreat during the Memorial weekend with attendees from across the country.
- Masjid Al-Mu'minun of Memphis TN run a Halal Food Pantry feeding over 200 people monthly. They are involved in neighborhood dawah monthly, conduct Qur'anic Arabic classes, hold

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monthly breakfasts to strengthen community ties and they maintain an Islamic Museum. They were also the hosts of the huge annual "A Time to be Grateful" Muslim Journal event. As of March 2014, the Al-Mu'minun community of Memphis has produced over 20 "Muslims in Memphis Month" events. These events hold special Islamic programs every weekend for the entire month and are attended by Muslims and the outer community. They feature special speakers, cultural events, exquisite cuisine, etc.

- Masjid Al-Islam of Nashville TN, in addition to normal services, has a Clara Muhammad school.

The Southern Section set a remarkable example by coming together and collectively raising the funds for the initial construction of the New Medinah Boarding School and Convention Center.

MID-ATLANTIC SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

The Mid-Atlantic Section is very active in community building with new projects in cities such as Norfolk Virginia, Wilmington NC, Washington DC, Raleigh NC, Charlotte NC, Baltimore MD and others. Imams in the Mid-Atlantic Section have four planned meetings throughout the year 2014. Average attendance was between 20-25 imams.

The first meeting took place in Norfolk Va. Where Imam Vernon Fareed is the Resident Imam. The first meeting lead to the installment of Imam Dr. Abdel Jaleel Nuriddin, of Greensboro, North Carolina as the new Convener for years 2014 and 2015. Imam Mutee Mulazim of Baltimore MD was selected as the treasurer and Imam Raouf M. Abdullah of Suitland Maryland was selected as Secretary. A bank account was established by Treasurer Imam Mutee Mulazim with Imam Earl El-Amin as an additional signature. Dues for each Masjid were established at \$365.00 annually.

The second meeting was held in Durham NC where Imam Greg Rashad is the resident Imam. A goal was set at that meeting to help the Muslim Journal increase its subscriptions. The Section Imams also adopted a Mission and Vision statement for the Mid-Atlantic Section. There was discussion on the USCMO press conference culminating in an agreement to reach out to Warith Deen Mohammed II for discussion. There was also discussion on the qualifications for the Section Convener and the State Imams in our community and the need for Imams training. Imam Vernon Fareed was to provide us what was already available on the qualifications. Key Man insurance for Imams was discusses as well as goals set to develop youth and young adult organizations within all Masjids.

The third meeting was by conference call on July 1st 2014. The creation of a letterhead, website and calendar of events were to be created by Imam Greg Rashad of Durham NC. The National Muslim Business Conference organization paid for their creation. It was agreed to support the IWDM Daily Commentary program during Ramadan, sponsored by The Nations Mosque (Masjid Muhammad Washington D.C).

There was a decision to have a Mid-Atlantic Sectional Imams Conference in September 2014 in Raleigh NC. This was to be an all-day planning sessions for the Imams to learn, to bond and fuse collective energy and support of sectional and community programs. Imam Nuriddin Informed the Section that the Subscription Drive challenge had been accepted by the Conveners and Imams in their sections. The challenge of 3000 subscriptions over a ninety day period divided into 7 sections or 430 subscriptions per section was the goal. That goal was not reached, but progress was made. The subscription drive effort is continuing.

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The fourth meeting took place on September 21st in Raleigh North Carolina where Imam Oliver Muhammad is the resident Imam. The Mosque Cares convention 2014 was discussed and a decision was made not to issue a statement as a section on the incident. The letterhead, website and calendar of events were approved for use after corrections. The need to increase security across the community was discussed.

Imam Nuriddin mentioned the idea of insurance coverage for Imams in every city. A insurance policy that would pay half to the Masjid and half to the family of the Resident Imam. Imam Mulazim will research this idea and will invite an insurance representative to the next meeting.

The W.D. Mohammed Islamic Center project, headed by Imam Darnell Karim was mentioned, but there was no discussion, because no one had information.

Overall it was a year of organizing, action and planning for the future.

NEW ENGLAND SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

This has been a very active year for the New England Section (aka. New England Council of Masajid). We have maintained our regular Salat al Jumu'ah and weekly Ta'aleem throughout the year. We have also sought to maintain the daily prayers in our areas. The Muhammad Islamic Center of Hartford and Masjid Al-Quran have been blessed to be open for all the prayers on a daily basis.

The Masajid in New England are located in Boston, Mass, Springfield, Mass, Providence, Rhode Island, Hartford, CT, Hamden, CT, and Bridgeport, CT. All of the Masajid are involved with prison ministry or chaplaincy. Each masjid's Imam or membership is performing chaplaincy of some sort. The majority of the Masajid focus on prison Ministry, while the Masjid in Hartford also provides Emergency Crisis Management and Hospital Chaplaincy. The Hartford Emergency Chaplain was deployed for the hurricane crisis this year in Arkansas in which many lives were lost. This was done in conjunction with The Red Cross and Islamic Relief.

The Imam in the Hartford Masjid, Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim serves as the president of The Muslim Endorsement Council of Connecticut. In this function he serves in the capacity of endorsing Islamic Chaplains for different institutions throughout the United States. He also works with MECC to hold an annual conference for chaplains and Imams at Yale University each year. Chaplaincy Work is a major interest of the New England Council.

The Imam in Hamden Imam Abdul Majid Karim Hasan was the first Full time Islamic Chaplain in the State and continues after retirement to be the lead Islamic Consultant for the Department of Correction.

Bridgeport also has many support programs for released inmates and works with an inmate peer / mentoring program.

The Hamden, Bridgeport, Rhode Island and Boston Masajid lead the community in dawah efforts with their interfaith banquets, tribute dinners and programs geared toward the recognition of women and community leadership. The Bridgeport Masjid, under the leadership of Imam Nasif Muhammad, has been honoring women yearly in the community for 35 years. Each one of these Masajid bring more non-Muslims to these events and programs than Muslims.

The New England Section is working diligently to maintain and develop the language of Imam W. Deen Mohammad. This is done through the annual Uswah Conference which is held each year. This year the focus will be on mission building.

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The Masjid in Hartford also spent a great deal of time this year formulating and amending the masjid structure and bylaws to represent the thinking of Imam W. Deen Mohammad and to protect the community interest from takeovers by groups of other orientations.

The Masajid throughout the state are working with area churches and synagogues to promote interfaith relations. The Masjid in Hartford works with a Jewish group on a monthly basis to have conversations about pertinent Muslim / Jewish concerns.

The Hartford Masjid has also had conversation with Politician and community activist regarding issues facing the African American community. The Imams of the council have spoken at and led rallies regarding Ferguson, and have done dawah programs to clarify differing opinions with ISIS.

The Imam in Hartford also helped lead a prayer Vigil and Memorial with CAIR CT chapter regarding the Shooting of Three Students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The Imam in Hartford and his community are active members of CAIR CT chapter and the American Coalition of Good Government in which the Imam of Hartford is the regional coordinator.

The Imam of Hartford, Imam Muhammad Ansari, serves also as President of the NAACP for the Connecticut chapter. The Council tries to stay politically involved without stepping outside of the boundaries of a non-profit organization. The Masjid in Hartford has worked with The Connecticut Center for a new Economy on voter registration and education. The Imams in Hartford and Rhode Island are also serving on the board for the US Commission of civil rights in CT and RI to deal with issues of special concern.

The Masjid in Boston, Hamden and Bridgeport sponsor a food Share program each month feeding the community at large. The Masjid in Hartford working with the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut serves food at the area shelter. Each year during Ramadan the Masjid in Hartford also purchases something needful for the womens shelter. In the past year they purchased comforters and bed spreads.

Another concern the Muslim Community has been working on are issues of universal Health care. In particular, organizing people to sign up for health care and to understand the process. The Masjid in Hamden, Hartford and Bridgeport are also working with agencies to provide vaccination and health care products for the community. This also includes promoting health fairs throughout the region.

The Masjids in Boston, Hartford and Hamden maintain an Islamic Education program connected to the vision of the Clara Muhammad Weekend School. The schools are struggling to stay afloat, but efforts are being made to improve. The masjid in Hartford still remains connected to workshops and programs connected to the national framework of Clara Muhammad schools. The Masjid in Hartford began a new venture this year establishing The Bilalian Boy and Girl Scout program

The New England Council believes the work of Allah cannot be kept in the masjid so it continues to keep it efforts at home and domestically.

WESTERN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

NO REPORT