



# Islamic Leadership Training and Development Program Summary

Education is the number one priority in the *Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed*. The proposed ***Islamic Leadership Training and Development (ILTDP)*** is in the early stages of development. It has been designed to implement this priority for current and future leaders responsible for advancing the vision, mission, and potential of the community. The impetus for the program is the need to develop a new generation of Imams and community leaders with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully meet the future challenges to grow and develop our community life and institutions.

The purpose of the program is to facilitate the acquisition and understanding of Islamic knowledge utilizing the *Islamic Sources (Qur'an, Life of Prophet Muhammad [ppbuh], Creation, and human nature)* based upon the orientation, language, and logic of Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

The three major ILTDP components include:

- **Community Leadership**
- **The Islamic Sciences**
- **The Imam W. Deen Mohammed Knowledge Body**

Imams and other scholars from our community have been working over the last year to develop the ILTDP. The program is open to Imams, Assistant Imams, Muslim Chaplains, Teachers, community leaders, and anyone with responsibilities that cast them as representatives of the *Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed*, in their maasajid or elsewhere. It is also open to Islamic workers sincerely interested in qualifying themselves to enhance the community's advancement towards its promised destiny.

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## **Community Leadership Summary**

The *Imam W. Deen Mohammed Community* has been evolving for nine decades, beginning with the *Nation of Islam*. Over that period, the leadership model has also evolved. Our leaders have evolved from *Ministers* to *Imams*. This ninety-year transformation has been profound relative to community culture; and leadership expectations, character, knowledge, skills, and abilities. New leaders will need to draw on this accumulated knowledge and collective experience to take our community into the future.

In Al-Islam, *Community* and *Leadership* are *mates*. The ***Community Leadership*** component of the ***Islamic Leadership Training and Development Program (ILTDP)*** was developed to reflect the *Primary Functions* and knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) of the *Recommendations for New Imams and Muslim Chaplains*. The component was also developed to integrate key concepts from all three components of the *ILTDP* (*i.e. Community Leadership, Islamic Sciences, and IWDM Knowledge Body*). The proposed component reflects a two-course sequence: **1) *Theory and Conceptual Development***; and **2) *Skill Development and Application***.

Learning objectives for *ILTDP Community Leadership* component include:

- The unique 90-year history and progression of our Islamic experience;
- The Qur'anic and natural foundations of community and leadership;
- Dimensions of Islamic leadership;
- The role of leadership in shaping community life;
- Analysis of the Islamic Sources including the Qur'an; signs and principles of Creation; life example of Prophet Muhammad (ppbuh); human nature and history;
- Applying the principles of Fiqh and Thinking of IWDM to the five pillars;
- Understanding major duties of Imams including Khutbah and Taleem development; Nikah; Janazah; Dawah; effective communication; and community representation; and
- Understanding and practicing the principles of Islamic Community governance and organizational development.

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## **The Islamic Sciences Summary**

Imam W. Deen Mohammed said: *“..the only way we can be strong in Islamic knowledge is to turn to the pure sources, the Qur’an, the Hadith, the Sunnah of the Prophet, the Seerah, the history of the Prophet. Return to the wisdom of those learned companions, the wisdom of those learned Imams who have survived the early days of the Muslims to pass on the the knowledge to us. Study that, learn it so that you will become strong in knowledge.”*

The Islamic Sciences knowledge body forms the foundations of the traditions and practices of the Deen of Al-Islam. It consists of eight major areas of focus. In addition to eventually mastering the subjects that have been developed and established by our scholarly predecessors, it is the goal of the component to revisit and build upon their work and, in light of current knowledge and issues, to review, explore, discover, and based on Imam W. Deen Mohammed’s commentary and explanations, to improve upon and share new insights in each of these major areas that meet the challenges and opportunities facing our contemporary world. This proposed training component is designed to strengthen the knowledge of Islamic community leaders with studies in the critical areas of:

- Qur’an, including recitation and pronunciation (Tajwid), the history and stages of revelation, compilation, and interpretation;
- Hadith, including terminology, compilation, narrator studies, history, and types of hadith;
- The beliefs and practices of Islam;
- History of the Prophet’s life (Seerah);
- Islamic Law (Shariah), including its history and development, and the application of Fiqh to the practices of the Deen; and
- Islamic History, including the establishment of Islam, the early Muslim civilizations (i.e. Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe), Islam in America and the Muslim American experience, and the global diversity of Muslim life.

The *ILTDP Islamic Sciences* component is also designed to prepare community leaders with the knowledge needed for the on-going development of Muslim community life.

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# **The Imam W. Deen Mohammed Knowledge Body Summary**

Imam W. Deen Mohammed (IWDM) provided profound knowledge and wisdom for over 33 years to the community that followed him and to all others who would listen. Since his passing in 2008, members of his community have been engaged in the preservation of his lectures and writings, his ideas and concepts (knowledge body), and engaged in organizing, propagating, and facilitating the distribution and learning of his knowledge body. The *Islamic Leadership Training and Development Program (ILTDP)* in general, and the *IWDM Knowledge Body (IWDM-KB)* Component in particular, are natural out-growths of these efforts.

The proposed *ILTDP-IWDM Knowledge Body* component is designed to equip the learner with a solid grasp of critical concepts in the school of thinking (i.e. language and logic) of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. Some of the topics include:

- Understanding the methodology and proofs of IWDM's approach to explaining and interpreting Al-Islam;
- The vocabulary of language of IWDM;
- The logic of IWDM's interpretations and explanations of rituals, stories and concepts in Qur'an and Al-Islam;
- Ablution, the positions of prayer, the times of prayer, and the meaning of the Greater Salat (i.e., all creatures know their own mode of prayer and praise);
- Hajj, the Black Stone, Station of Abraham, running between Safa and Marwa, ascending Mount Arafat, the Kabbah, etc.;
- New Africa, New Medina, Bilalian;
- Concepts of Individual, Human, Community growth and evolution;
- How to research, teach, explain and think with IWDM's language and logic.

The IWDM-KB component also strives to pull together Imam Mohammed's commentary and explanations on a wide variety of topics into one program and present them in an organized and easy to learn format. Facilitating easy and effective transmission and transference of this knowledge is essential for the IWDM community, which is responsible for advancing the vision, mission, and knowledge that Allah gifted to IWDM for society.