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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Summary**

In the fall of 2012, the Sectional Conveners began to discuss the idea of convening a meeting with key leaders and organizations within the association that identifies with the leadership and language of Imam W. Deen Mohammed to discuss community development issues. After several months of deliberations, plans for the summit were finalized. As a result, the date, location, and purpose of the summit were determined. The weekend of March 15-17 was agreed upon with the location of New Medinah, Mississippi.

The purpose of the summit was to convene a discussion among leaders of institutions/organizations within the community. The Sectional Conveners, representatives of recognized institutions/organizations, and designated resource persons were invited to participate. The purpose of the discussions was to:

* Strengthen relationships and lines of communication among the groups;
* Identify ways to support each other for the common good of the association;
* Identify developmental needs of the association; and
* Develop an agreed upon agenda to address shared concerns and the developmental needs to include:
  + Defining The Role of Leadership
  + Identifying Community Development Priorities and Strategies
  + Develop Ongoing Communication Strategies

The summit activities began on Friday, March 15th with Jumah Prayer at Masjid Al-Halim in New Medinah. Imam Salahuddin Hanif, Southern Sectional Convener, delivered the Jumah khutbah and afterwards welcomed the summit attendees. National Convener, Imam Bashir Ali, also welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the weekend. After the salat and welcome, the participants convened at the Dr. Ali Rashad Community Center for preliminary activities including registration, and presentations and discussions on Islamic leadership from Dr. Hameed Al-Amin and Imam Benjamin Bilal.

On Saturday, March 16th, summit activities started after Fajr prayer. They included opening comments and presentations from the participating organizations and Sectional Conveners. Sister Khadijah Aminah Muhammad, Midwest Coordinator for the American Coalition for Good Government, facilitated the sessions. Additional activities also included discussions on leadership qualities; strategic planning exercises on community strengths, challenges, and future needs; and consensus building exercises on community priorities. The Saturday session ended with agreement on community development priorities and action steps.

On Sunday, the summit concluded with agreement on priorities; assignment of follow-up responsibilities; communication strategies to report back to the community; the process for getting feedback from the community including the Sections and organizations; a discussion of on-going communication strategies; and agreement to reconvene in mid-June to assess community feed-back and progress on priorities and action steps. Sectional Conveners will take a lead role to assure information is disseminated to local Imams and communities for their information and feedback. Other vehicles for general information to the community will be the Muslim Journal, internet radio programs, and our community website (*iwdmcommunity.com*).

A major discussion was also undertaken on both Saturday and Sunday to follow-up on action taken at the second Louisville, KY National Imam’s Meeting in 2009, where it was decided to select a name for the association. It was agreed that this discussion would be expanded to include the Sections, Imams, masajid/centers, organizations, and Believers, with a progress report in June.

The Community Leadership Summit participants included:

**Sectional Conveners**

Imam Ahmed Sabree, Northeast

Imam Talib Shareef (for Imam Abdul Pasha), Mid-Atlantic

Imam Salahuddin Hanif and Imam Rashad Sharif, Southern

Imam Bashir Ali, Midwest/National

Imam Fahmee Sabree, Southwest

Imam Wali Fardan, Western

**Major Institutions/Organizations**

*Muslim Journal:* Ayesha K. Mustafaa

*The Mosque Cares:* Ahmed Rasheed, Imam Rahman Muhammad

*International League of Muslim Women:* Deborah Abdur-Raheem, Margaret Sabir-Gillette, Dorthea Guess

*American Coalition for Good Government:* Marvin Muhammad, Wali Shaheed

*National Education Team:* Dr. Hameed Al-Amin, Dr. Abd’Allah Adeysana

*Community Life Forward:* Imam Mansoor Sabree

**Special Invitees/Resource Persons**

Khadijah Aminah Muhammad-Facilitator

Imam Plemon Al-Amin

Imam/Sheikh Ibraheem Pasha

Imam Benjamin Bilal

Dr. Rashad Ali

*Imam Vernon Fareed (submitted comments in writing)*

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Leadership Qualities**

**(Consensus Qualities)**

* Trustworthy, having Taqwa
* Moral and Rational Thinker
* Correct Temperament
* Selfless and Exemplary
* Servant
* Humility
* Vision
* Cultivator/Educator who brings the best out of people
* Accountable
* Listener, ability to listen and to communicate
* Inspiring
* Open to other views
* Facilitate getting the job done
* Resourceful/Productive
* Willingness to compromise (when possible)

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Community Development Priorities**

**Priority 1: Economics**

**Action Steps Responsibility**

**Education** Dr. Rashad Ali

* Need of Individual/Family/Community
* Money as a resource Wali Shaheed
* Budgeting Imam Fahmee Sabree
* Money Management Imam Fahmee Sabree
* Utilizing Resources
* Not spending above our needs Imam Fahmee Sabree

**Investment Strategies**

* Collective buying and purchasing
* Business of Halal

**Banking**

* Establishing credit unions (“Do for Self”)

**Property Ownership** Wali Shaheed

**Work Team**

* **Imam Talib Shareef**
* **Ayesha K. Mustafaa**
* **Imam Fahmee Sabree**
* **Wali Shaheed**
* **Dr. Rashad Ali**

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Community Development Priorities**

**Priority 2: Education**

**Action Steps Responsibility**

-Standardized study guide using IWDM’s tafseer Imam Benjamin Bilal

-Focus on learning Quranic Arabic especially for leaders Imam Salahuddin Hanif

-Every musallah is a school Imam Salahuddin Hanif

-Curriculum for parents

-Develop quiz questions from IWDM’s Ramadan Sessions

-Develop an association of educators and teachers to

meet annually and have national status Dr. Abd’Allah Adesanya

-Encourage volunteer tutoring

-Develop standards for incoming Imams including the

Imam’s tafseer Imam Benjamin Bilal

-Teach core concepts through “Knowledge Transfer”

to better acclimate our students to the “real world”

**Work Team**

* **Imam Benjamin Bilal**
* **Imam Salahuddin Hanif**
* **Dr. Hameed El-Amin**
* **Dr. Abd’Allah Adesanya**
* **Imam Wali Fardan**

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Community Development Priorities**

**Priority 3: Youth Engagement**

**Action Steps\* Responsibility**

-Schools/Community Centers

-Scouts (B/G)

-Islamic Education

-International Travel

-Parenting Training

-Youth Public Service

-Career/Job Training/Interns

-Youth Conferences/Forums

-National YA (unnamed)???

-Sports

-Rites of Passage

-Cultural Entertainment

-Exchange National/International

-Youth Outreach Programs

-Islamic Competition

-National Awards

-Youth-friendly Masajid

-Free Islamic Apps

**Work Team**

* **Wali Shaheed**
* **Deborah Abdul-Raheem**

*\*Outline statements should be turned into action statements.*

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Community Development Priorities**

**Priority 4: Culture**

**Action Steps Responsibility**

*-Encourage marriage (and family life) for healthy*

*growth and stability*

-Locate and empower persons with expertise in

culture to form community values and norms

-Identify Memes from IWDM to insert into the larger

community culture calling on our association to

concentrate on using these expressions (i.e. “Man

Means Mind,” “Do for Self,” “I’m Black and I’m Proud,”

etc.) [Engage other communities] Imam Benjamin Bilal

Imam Rashad Sharif

-Seek and organize youth and designers from our

community to develop unique clothing, art, music,

living spaces/housing in an Halal manner Deborah Abdul-Raheem

Dr. Abd’Allah Adesanya

Imam Ahmed Sabree

-Have more social interactions

**Work Team**

* **Imam Rashad Sharif**
* **Dr. Abd’Allah Adesanya**
* **Deborah Abdul-Raheem**
* **Imam Ahmed Sabree**

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**Community Leadership Summit**

**Community Development Priorities**

**Priority 5: Government/Shuraa**

**Action Steps Responsibility**

-Develop an affiliate ACGG in each Masjid/Center

(handbook) Wali Shaheed

-Civic Education: Distinguish between politics and

government *(Politics 101)*

-Define issues to engage in:

* Voter registration
* Weigh-in on “Anti-Shariah” movement
* Maintain a non-partisan stance
* International vs. national issues

-Cultivate and encourage new candidates

-Shuraa: Quranic establishment of governing models Imam Fahmee Sabree

* i.e. Prophet’s New Medinah model
* Weigh in on Muslim leaders who govern un-Islamically,

imposed on their people, depleting resources

-ACGG meet monthly and have a monthly activity

**Work Team**

* **Imam Talib Shareef**
* **Ayesha K. Mustafaa**
* **Wali Shaheed**
* **Imam Fahmee Sabree**
* **Marvin Muhammad**