



Conveners of Imams



Associated with the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed

Recommended Qualifications for New Imams and Muslim Chaplains*

Prerequisites

- Exemplify the character traits of Islamic leadership as demonstrated by Prophet Muhammad (PPBUH), including:
 - Characteristics of the Muslim Believer (*as defined in Qur'an 33:35*) including:
 - Good Moral Character
 - Integrity
 - Honesty and Trustworthiness
 - Humility
 - Exemplifying the characteristics of the “*Servant Leader*”
- Be known and respected by members of the local Muslim Community
- A record of active participation and service in Islamic Community life
- The knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the *Primary Functions* outlined below

Primary Functions

- Providing Islamic Community leadership in accordance with the Qur'an; life example of Prophet Muhammad; and language, logic and vision of Imam W. Deen Mohammed
- Understanding, reading, reciting, and teaching the language of Qur'an
- Understanding and teaching the five essential beliefs, practices, and traditions of Islam (*i.e. Iman/Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Saum, and Hajj*)
- Leading the daily prayers (*Salat*)
- Leading the Friday (*Jumuah*) Prayer which includes giving the Sermon (*Khutbah*)
- Providing religious instruction including:
 - Taleem (*Islamic Education*) Services
 - Quranic Arabic Classes
- Leading the Eid (*religious holiday*) Prayers
- Collecting and distributing obligatory charity (*Zakat*)¹
- Performing Marriage (*Nikah*) ceremonies (*including Islamic pre-marriage and relationship counseling, as needed*)
- Performing Funeral (*Janazah*) rituals and ceremonies¹
- Understanding and practicing the principles of Islamic Community governance (*i.e. “Islamic Democracy” and “Amruhum Shuraa Banahum”*)
- Representing the Religion (*Deen*) and Islamic Community in intrafaith, interfaith and Dawah activities; community/public forums, interviews, and presentations; etc.

***Note: Muslim Chaplains acting in community leadership roles for incarcerated inmates.**

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

1. Demonstrate the ability to read, recite, memorize, understand, research, and teach the Qur'an including:

- Knowledge of the Qur'anic Arabic and Grammar (*Qawa'id*)
- Ability to recite (*with proper Tajweed*) and memorize key portions of the Qur'an
- Knowledge of and the ability to research Tafseer of the Prophet, Companions, and major scholars (*including Imam W. Deen Mohammed*)
- Knowledge of and the ability to research, teach, and explain key words and concepts in the Qur'an
- Knowledge of the history, context, and interpretation of Qur'anic revelation

2. Understand and apply the knowledge body (*Islamic Sciences*) that supports the Deen and traditions/practices of Muslim Life including:

- Knowledge of and the ability to research and apply Hadith of the Prophet and Companions including:
 - Ulum al Hadith (*Books and Scholars*)
 - Forty Hadith
- Knowledge of and the ability to research and apply the science of Fiqh As-Sunnah including:
 - Shariah and Major Schools of Thought
- Knowledge of and the ability to reference the Seerah (*life of the Prophet*)
- Knowledge of and the ability to reference Islamic History including:
 - Establishment of Islam and the early Muslim Community
 - Muslim Civilizations (*i.e. Asia, Africa, Europe, etc.*)
 - Islam in America and the Muslim American Experience

3. Demonstrate the ability to understand, research and teach the knowledge body of Imam W. Deen Mohammed (*i.e. language, thinking, logic, and vision*) including:

- Knowledge of and the ability to research, teach and explain Critical Concepts in the knowledge body of IWDM (*i.e., language, thinking, and logic for religious terminology and the development of the individual and society, including*):
 - Creation Based Concepts
 - Scripture Based Concepts
 - Human/Social/Community Based Concepts
 - Ethnic Based Concepts
- Knowledge of and the ability to research, teach, and explain Imam W. Deen Mohammed's vision for community leadership and development

4. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to carry-out the above-mentioned functions of leading, teaching and developing Islamic Community life including:

- Knowledge of the leadership traits and characteristics of Prophet Muhammad (PPBUH)
- Knowledge and understanding of the relationship between Islamic leadership and community life
- Knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of Islamic leadership including:
 - How Islamic leadership impacts the direction, purpose, and culture of community life
 - The role of leadership in shaping the development of community life
 - The critical elements and institutions of community life (*as defined by IWDM*)
 - The processes that govern Islamic Community life (*Islamic Democracy and Amruhum Shuraa Baynahum*)
 - The natural processes and scientific principles (*Natural Sciences*) that shape the development of human and community life (*Fitrah*)
 - Those historic forces that shape the larger community that we serve including:
 - History of Human Civilization
 - History of African Civilization
 - American History (including the African American Experience)
- Knowledge, understanding, and the demonstrated ability to perform those *Primary Functions (listed above)*
- Knowledge, understanding, and the demonstrated ability to perform the essential duties (*supporting the Primary Functions, above*) including:
 - The ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing
 - A basic knowledge and understanding of adult learning and education
 - Knowledge and ability to research, prepare, and deliver Khutbahs (*Islamic Sermons*) and specific instruction or guidance that meets the developmental needs of the local Muslim Community
 - Knowledge and ability to provide Islamic counseling to strengthen individual and family life
 - The basic knowledge and understanding of the administrative and business processes specific to non-profit and/or religious organizations¹
 - The knowledge and ability to represent the Community through media interviews and/or oral, written, or visual presentations¹
 - The ability to use communications technology to receive and disseminate essential Community information¹

Note: 1) These functions may be specific to Resident Imams