

Building Interfaith Bridges

Schedule for October 15th



9:00-10:00 a.m. Fill out nametag, write questions for Dr. Syeed or the panelists

10:00 Welcome and opening prayer: The Rev. Rick Carus, Transitional Executive Presbyter of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery

10:10 Story of how this day happened: The Rev. Scott Prouty

10:20 Introduction of Dr. Syeed, Joyce Graue, Jaylani Hussein, Nahid Khan, Elona Street-Street, Dr. Bernie Evans

10:40 Who's in the audience?

10:50-11:25 Dr. Syeed gives opening talk to the gathering, time for questions

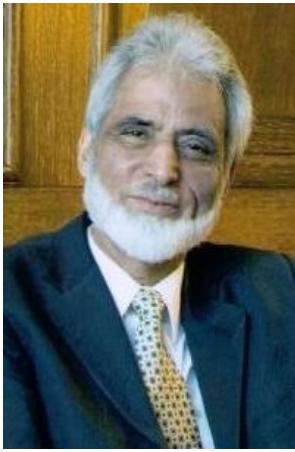
11:25 Instructions for lunch and prayer for the meal: The Rev. Pamela Prouty

11:30-12:25 Boxed lunches served in church dining hall

Time of fellowship and discussion

12:30 p.m. Interfaith Panel Discussion begins

1:55 Wrap up and close with prayer



Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed is the National Director of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), heading up its Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances in Washington, DC. He served for 12 years (1994-2006) as Secretary General of the Indiana-based national umbrella organization, which has more than 300 affiliates all over the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Syeed was born in Srinagar Kashmir and migrated to the United States in the mid-1970s. From 1980-1983, he served as President of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) of USA & Canada and pioneered its transformation into the modern day Islamic Society of North America. From 1984-1988, he was Secretary General of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (IIFSO) and traveled widely in this capacity through the former Soviet Union, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and South America. Dr. Syeed has also been General Secretary of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), a national professional organization founded in 1972.

Dr. Syeed was one of the founders of the American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS) and served as Editor and then Editor-in-Chief (1984-1994). During his tenure there, AJISS grew into a quarterly publication, and today AJISS has acquired a respectable niche in academia and is quoted with recognition in professional and scholarly research. Dr. Syeed was also Chairman of the Editorial Board of Islamic Horizons, the flagship magazine of ISNA, from 1982 to 1984 and 1994 to 2006.

He has been actively involved in fostering understanding among world religions and has participated in interfaith dialogues from local to international levels in the U.S.A. and Canada. A frequent speaker at interfaith dialogues, he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. In 2000, he was invited to a dialogue in the Vatican by the late Pope John Paul, and in 2008, he led the American Muslim leadership delegation to meet with Pope Benedict in Washington,

Syeed served on the Taskforce for the Integration of Muslims in the American mainstream set by Chicago Global Affairs after 9/11/2001 to promote healthy ways of interaction and involvement of Muslims in the mainstream America. Dr. Syeed was instrumental in pioneering the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign with American Muslims Against Anti Muslim Sentiment established by various Christian and Jewish denominations together in 2010. The Campaign is funded by Christian and Jewish interfaith partners and is hosted in the ISNA office on the Capitol Hill.

Dr. Syeed has been involved in promoting intra-faith understanding between various schools of thought within Islam. He was instrumental in getting the Shia-Sunni Code of Honor signed by leaders of both backgrounds in front of about 12000 Muslims in Chicago. This has become a point of reference for Sunni- Shia understanding internationally. He invited the former President Khatami of Iran to address the ISNA convention in Chicago in 2007, an unprecedented event that had positive implications for bringing the two communities together. Dr. Syeed is a frequent speaker at Sunni as well as Shia Islamic centers and conferences.

Syeed studied at Indiana University Bloomington where he earned his doctoral degree in Sociolinguistics in 1984. His dissertation was published in 1985 by the Linguistics Club of Indiana University.

In recognition of his contribution to inter-religious understanding and harmony, Dr. Syeed was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters by the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana on May 4, 2001. He also received the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished service in furthering the Islamic tradition in North America and for promoting inter-religious understanding and harmony from the Catholic Heritage Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky. In 2010, Interfaith Alliance presented him with its President's award. He was awarded Life time Achievement Award by Council on American Islamic Relations in 2013.

Syeed was the first Muslim leader to be given Faith and Tolerance Award by Holy land Christian Ecumenical Foundation in Oct 2015 in Washington DC at their 17th International Conference. In announcing this year's award recipient, **Sir Rateb Rabie, President and CEO of HCEF**, stated: "In his words, Dr. Syeed consistently reminds us that the true legitimate tradition of the Holy Quran is built upon rights and religious freedom. However, more than just words, Dr. Syeed's actions demonstrate this principle. "

On January 5, 2002, Mr. Frank O'Bannon, the Governor of Indiana, recognized Dr. Syeed in his State of the State Address by saying that his "work to educate Americans about the Muslim faith in the wake of the September 11 terror attacks, along with [his] life's work to encourage tolerance and racial healing has marked [him] as a great leader in Indiana."

Dr. Syeed has been invited to speak on Muslim and Islamic issues on national TV including NBC, CBS, CBN, BBC and ABC. He was interviewed on PBS on the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour and has appeared on the "Today Show," CNN's "Crossfire," and on national television stations in Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sudan, India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia to discuss matters related to Islam and Muslims in America.



Rev. Joyce Graue currently serves as pastor of St John's Lutheran Church in Raymond MN. She was born in Minneapolis MN, but did most of her 'growing up' in Byron MN. A graduate of St Olaf College, Northfield MN, majoring in Classics and Religion, she then earned her M.Div at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton NJ, with a concentration in Church History. She was ordained a pastor in the American Lutheran Church in 1984 which is a predecessor body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

In addition to her current call, Rev Graue has served other congregations both in the US and overseas: Oakdale (Pittsburgh) PA; Jackson MN; Tuggeranong (Canberra) Australia; Hackham West (Adelaide), Australia and Wayville (Adelaide), Australia. Called by the Department of Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1995, Rev Graue taught Greek, Hebrew, Church History and A Bible Overview for 10 years at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, Papua New Guinea before accepting another assignment in which she served 5 years as the Conseillère Technique (Advisor) to the Femmes Centrafricaines pour Christ (Central African Women for Christ) in Bouar, Central African Republic, especially assisting in the education and leadership development of women in the Lutheran Church.

Rev Graue was a voting member of the American Lutheran Church (now ELCA) at the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Budapest, Hungary in 1984. She served on the local committee for the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra, Australia in 1991. Since 2011 she is a member of the ELCA Church Council which serves as the 'Board of Directors' for the ELCA.

Rev Graue has served as Conference Dean for the cluster of 34 congregations in the Willmar area. Currently as "Conference Minister" she works 3 to 5 hours/week locally for the Southwestern MN Synod of the ELCA.

Rev Graue is married to Ian. They have three children: two in Australia and one in Papua New Guinea. She enjoys reading, baking, and computer games to relax.



Jaylani Hussein is currently the executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN). Hussein worked as the Community Liaison Officer at Metro State University and as a Planner for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. In 2013, he created Zeila Consultants to develop and offer cross-cultural training workshops on East African cultures. Hussein has presented on the Somali Culture to diverse public and private organizations across the US. He specializes in the areas of urban planning, community development, youth development (with over 8 years experience in working in juvenile treatment centers for court adjudicated youth), legal and civil rights.

Hussein has been active with various community organizations in Minnesota, including the Islamic Cultural Center of Minnesota Board of Directors, Wilder Foundation Advisory Board, Muslim Youth of Minnesota Advisory Board, Islamic Resource Group Speakers Bureau, and ARAHA Board of Directors. He has traveled to the Horn of Africa twice on behalf of ARAHA, to open a regional field office and oversee large-scale humanitarian projects during the Somali Famine of 2011. Hussein received the 2015 the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) annual "Visionary Leader" Award. Hussein received the Immigrant of Distinction Award from the Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

Hussein appears regularly on Minnesota's local television and radio stations. He has also appeared national and international outlets including ABC News, CNN, FOX BUSINESS, NPR, BBC among other outlets.

Hussein's family emigrated from Somalia to Minnesota in 1993 and he is trilingual (English, Somali, Arabic). Hussein holds degrees in Community Development and City Planning from St. Cloud State University and Political Science from North Dakota State University.



Elona Street-Stewart, Delaware-Nanticoke, is the Synod Executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., providing administrative oversight and primary support for congregations, presbyteries and ecclesial partnerships. Prior to that, she was the Synod Associate for Racial Ethnic Ministries and Community Empowerment for twenty years. Recognized for national advocacy on race and social justice, she is active in a variety of nonprofit boards, professional councils and legislative initiatives for education and racial equity. In addition to serving over thirty years on General Assembly committees and caucuses, she was the first American Indian elected to an urban school board in Minnesota, serving 3 terms in Saint Paul Public Schools and representing racial ethnic political issues statewide. An Upward Bound student from Philadelphia, she is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles and is a member of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul.



Dr. Bernard Evans recently retired from the faculty at Saint John's University where he served as Associate Dean for Faculty in the School of Theology. Evans also occupied the Virgil Michel Ecumenical Chair in Rural Social Ministries teaching courses on Christian social ethics, environmental theology and ministry in rural communities. His most recent publications include the books *Lazarus at the Table: Catholics and Social Justice* (2006); *Vote Catholic? Beyond the Political Din* (2008); *Stewardship: Living a Biblical Call* (2014), all published by the Liturgical Press. Evans is married to Nancy Alvarez and they are parents of two adult children.



Nahid Khan, a special consultant to the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning, is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication with minors in religious studies and museum studies at the University of Minnesota. Active in community interfaith dialogue since the 1980s, with a particular focus on Muslim-Jewish dialogue, she was a Muslim delegate at the North American Interfaith Colloquium held at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in 1999 and 2000 and she served for eight years on the board of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, an interfaith advocacy group addressing social justice issues in Minnesota. She is also a trained guide for the Collection in Focus program at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and a board member of Mizna, an Arab-American cultural and arts organization based in the Twin Cities.