

Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of Northern Virginia (CMD)



MISSION STATEMENT

Whereas Catholics and Muslims are two of the major faiths living as neighbors in all parts of the world;

Whereas Catholics and Muslims believe in God Almighty in the Scriptures;

Whereas Catholics and Muslims recognize Abraham as common patriarch of their faiths;

Whereas Catholics and Muslims believe in Scriptures that address the welfare of the needy and the poor, those in suffering and those effected by calamities;

Whereas Catholics and Muslims believe in family values, and their Scriptures stand for human dignity, generosity, compassion, mercy and forgiveness;

Whereas Catholic Church Teachings and Muslim Traditions ask Catholics and Muslims, respectively, to reach out and build better relations between the two communities;

Whereas the global community cries out for cooperation, deepening relations and respect for one another's faiths in the service of humanity:

Therefore we, Catholics and Muslims living in Northern Virginia, commit ourselves to dialogue:

1. To understand and build better relations;
2. To appreciate and celebrate our respective faiths as good neighbors in mutual respect for one another;
3. To address together religious, ethical, social, and moral issues facing humanity.

Our mission is to increase understanding, improve dialogue, dispel fear and promote hope. The Dialogue shall foster interaction, defend religious, civil and human rights, and challenge perceived public notions of our respective faith communities.

This mission will be accomplished through:

1. Educational seminars and conferences
2. Social interaction programs
3. Monitoring, analyzing and responding to media to promote public understanding
4. Advocacy for positions that further the Dialogue's mission

BY - LAWS

1. *Membership*

In order to achieve our goal we decide to form this Dialogue group where each community will have five to seven members. We encourage the sponsoring bodies to strive for diversity and gender representation. The Catholics will be represented through the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and the Muslims will be represented through the Coordinating Council of Muslim Organization in Washington Area (CCMO)

2. *Officers*

The Catholic Muslim Dialogue (CMD) will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair alternating between Muslims and Catholics. It will elect a Recording Secretary/Treasurer to Record and distribute minutes and to receive, record, and distribute funds as directed. Officers will serve two-year terms beginning September 1st. Officers' terms are renewable.

3. *Accountability*

The CMD Recording Secretary shall submit an annual report to be presented by the Chair and Vice-Chair to participating communities every year in September to support and renew membership/participation from the respective communities.

4. *Finance*

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington and the CCMO together will provide a budget for programs.

5. *Amendments*

Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a majority vote of the members following consideration at two successive meetings. At least four members of each community must be in favor of the amendment under consideration.

6. *Meetings and Committees*

The CMD shall meet bi-monthly to review minutes, discuss significant events which may have occurred during the period and plan for future activities. CMD may appoint sub-committees to organize public meetings, seminars, special events, picnics and visits to churches and mosques, to bridge the gap and build respectful understanding of the two faiths in Northern Virginia and beyond.

This Document was signed and witnessed on August 30, 2006.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde
Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Dr. Jamal Barzinji
Vice President, IIIT

Reverend Donald Rooney

Imam Jahari Abdul Malik

Reverend John J. Dolan, OSFS

Imam Mohammed Magid

Reverend Bob Menard, OFM

Imam Abolfazi Nahidian

Mr. Dave Natella

Imam Faizul Khan

Ms. Claireen E. Enciso

Dr. Hisham Al Talib

Mrs. Elizabeth Troiani

Dr. Iqbal Unus

Witnessed by:

Reverend Canon Francis Tiso
Office of Interreligious Affairs
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Muhammad Shafiq
Executive Director, CISD
Imam, Islamic Center of Rochester, NY