

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM IAGD MANAGEMENT

Dated: February 01, 2024

Dear IAGD Community,
Assalaam-u-Alaykum

IAGD Board of Directors and Board of Trustees are very pleased to announce that, in anticipation of the inauguration of our newly expanded masjid soon, we have created the new position of **Director of Religious Affairs**, at the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit (IAGD). Effective February 9, 2024, we are honored to appoint **Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah** as the first person to hold this position, while simultaneously serving as the **Spiritual Leader** at IAGD.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah is a world-renowned, distinguished scholar with a Ph.D. in Theology and Religious Studies. He currently serves as the Executive Director and Secretary General of the Fiqh Council of North America. Before accepting this new position at IAGD, Dr. Shah was the Director of Religious Affairs at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the largest Islamic organization in Wisconsin with three masjids, a full-time K-12 Islamic School accredited by the State of Wisconsin with over 1000 students, well organized weekend schools, Quran and Arabic Institute, Youth Core Academy, strong interfaith program, a vibrant fulltime health clinic, elderly center, counseling center, refugee program, strong social service and Zakat distribution programs, food pantry and many other unique community programs.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah has taught classes about Islam and Comparative Religions at several prestigious universities, including the International Islamic University in Islamabad, University of Wales, University of North Florida, St. Thomas University, and Cardinal Stritch University. He is also the former president of Sharia' Scholars Association of North America (SSANA) and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA). Dr. Shah has authored multiple books and articles on comparative religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Dr. Shah has been a Hafiz of the Holy Qur'an since his youth.

Under the guidance of IAGD Management, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah will have the overall responsibility as the Director of Religious Affairs to develop and structure programs to make IAGD a premier Islamic Center in the country. He will also have the responsibility to re-organize, as necessary, the various IAGD Committees and supervise their work in consultation with the President and the Board of Directors. Additionally, he will interact with the many mosques/Islamic Centers in the Detroit Metro area and help keep IAGD in a supportive leadership role with them. As Imam of IAGD Masjid, Dr. Shah's responsibilities will include organizing daily prayers, leading Jummah prayers and attending to the religious needs of our community.

With Dr. Shah's guidance, we aim to make IAGD a leading Islamic Center in the country by offering scholarly programs that educate and enhance our knowledge of our religion. We are confident that his vast knowledge and experience will help us grow and strengthen our community.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Dr. Shah to IAGD.

Sincerely,

IAGD Board of Directors
IAGD Board of Trustees