

For all Pastors, Ruling Elders, Deacons, CRE/CLPs and other PCUSA Members

Comparative Religion

April 7-9, 2022



Reverend Will McGarvey (left), has served Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, CA (PCUSA-UCC) for the last 17.5 years. He also serves half-time as the Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County for 10 years. Reverend Ben Daniel (right) has 27 years of ministry experience in the PCUSA. He is Senior Pastor/Head of Staff to the Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, CA. He blogs for The Huffington Post, has written for UPI's Religion and Spirituality Forum, and has been a regular contributor to KQED FM's Perspectives program.



When: *Thursday and Friday, April 7 and 8 – 7:00 to 9:00 pm*
Saturday, April 9 – 9:00 to 11:30 am; 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Where: *Zoom Class – Register on the links below:*

Thursday <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcuGqrTspHNSUrznvQxU-InaBWAjqNYL5>
Friday <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqfu-vpzojHNNEGboP5jjaH8C-MX5GSsAi>
Saturday <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpceCpqDstGt0TGvxqtv2wPkILZeEXsD66>

Cost: *\$100 for credit* for Commissioned Ruling Elder Candidates
\$40 to audit and open to all

Class Description: "The Comparative Religion CLP Course will introduce students to the important work of Interfaith dialogue, and will do so with a particular focus upon Islam. The class will weave together an introduction to the principles and best practices of Interfaith dialogue with an introduction to the beliefs, spirituality, and history of Islam. The weaving of these two strands of instruction will lead the class into a conversation about how the practice of Interfaith relationship building can help us to face the ongoing challenge of facing Islamophobia in the United States, in our churches and in ourselves."

Assignments and Readings: See the next page

Questions: Contact Phil Arzino, CRE/CLP Coordinator, pkarzino@comcast.net, 510-828-5596

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Further information for CRE/CLP Students

Pre-Class or Mid-Class Assignments

Attend your local Interfaith Council meeting. (Email Will McGarvey at eye4cee@gmail.com if you need help finding one after trying.)

[Interfaith Council of Alameda County](#)

[Eden Area Interfaith Council](#)

[San Francisco Interfaith Council](#)

[Marin Interfaith Council](#)

[Tri-City Interfaith Council](#)

[Silicon Valley Interreligious Council](#)

[Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County](#)

[Tri-Valley Interfaith Council \(Livermore\)](#)

Thursday night - Introductions

7 -9 pm

30 minutes of mixers, getting to know each other

Intro to your local Interfaith Council Will

Intro to Islam Ben

Friday night – Spirituality

7 -9 pm

Spirituality & History of Islam Ben

Call to prayer – symbolism, words, actions

Interfaith Spirituality, Platinum Rule Will

Learning to pray well with others.

Saturday – Countering the rhetoric that divides

9:00 to 11:30 am; 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Interfaith Skills: Non-Violent Communication, Compassionate Listening, Will
Solidarity, protecting religious minorities,

History of Islamophobia, Loving your Muslim Neighbors Ben

Practice Dialogue in small groups Both

Lunch:

Hard conversations: Compassionate Listening and listening to Will
understand rather than to respond.

Ben’s final segment Ben

Required reading:

“The Search for Truth about Islam: A Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction” by Ben Daniel.

“Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others” by Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor

“Fear Inc. 2.0” website by the Center for American Progress:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fear-inc-2-0/>

Skin in the Game: How Anti-Semitism Animates White Nationalism by Eric K. Ward:

<https://politicalresearch.org/2017/06/29/skin-in-the-game-how-antisemitism-animates-white-nationalism>

Videos to watch (around 90 mins each):

WATCH: CAIR Virtual News Conference on Facebook Announcing Release of the Report

<https://www.facebook.com/CAIRNational/videos/300031201937993>

Watch Defusing Hatred Interfaith Skills program at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPULJub12Eg&list=PLXLvyIbIUdDEFcTOpT0qvadsIUtODR1S-&index=3>

Everyday Peacemaking Program at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIyDmLizTmo&list=PLXLvyIbIUdDEFcTOpT0qvadsIUtODR1S-&index=2>

Courageous Conversations program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9fN960C-4M&list=PLXLvyIbIUdDEFcTOpT0qvadsIUtODR1S-&index=1>

Whole series available here:

(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXLvyIbIUdDEFcTOpT0qvadsIUtODR1S->)

Suggested Reading: Please choose 1 of the next options:

Interfaith Dialogue on wikipedia (includes a brief history):

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interfaith_dialogue

Anti-Hijab laws in France and India worry Muslim men and women (list of links on the topic):

<https://www.interfaithccc.org/anti-hijab-laws-in-france-and-india-worry-muslim-men-and-women-xenophobia-links/>

"Building a Diverse Democracy: Interfaith Engagement in Times of Crisis" video by Eboo Patel::

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkqbtBKH5c>

What Is Interfaith Leadership? Online article by Eboo Patel:

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/what-interfaith-leadership-ebboo-patel>

Please watch one of the ten Interfaith Dialogue videos that His Holiness the Dalai Lama shares at this link: <https://www.dalailama.com/videos/categories/interfaith>

California Indians: The First People – short oral history videos on the California Museum site:

<https://www.californiamuseum.org/california-indians-0>

Future reading, watching, and reference sources:

“The Islamophobia Industry: How the Right manufactures Fear of Muslims” by Nathan Lean

“What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions, from One of America’s Leading Experts” by John L. Esposito.

“Islam: A Short History” by Dr. Karen Armstrong

“The Qu’ran: With or Against the Bible” by Dr. Ejaz Naqvi

“A History of God: The 4,000 year quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam” by Dr. Karen Armstrong.

“Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” by Dr. Karen Armstrong.

“American Christians and Islam: Evangelical Culture and Muslims from the Colonial Period to the Age of Terrorism” by Thomas S. Kidd.

“Five Voices Five Faiths: An Interfaith Primer” by Amanda Milly Hughes.

“My Neighbor’s Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation” edited by Jennifer Howe Peace

“Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family” by Susan Katz Miller on Interfaith families, or families where there are multiple faith systems of ritual and practice

“Interfaith Heroes” book by Daniel L. Buttry

“Joining Hands and Hearts: Interfaith, Intercultural Wedding Celebrations: A Practical guide for couples”. By Susanna Macomb & Andrea Thompson

“Sourcebook of the World’s Religions: An Interfaith Guide to Religion and Spirituality” edited by Joel Beversluis

“Interfaith Leadership: A Primer”. by Eboo Patel

“Peacemaking and the Challenge of Violence in World Religions” edited by Irfan A. Omar

Interfaith Calendar (please use this resource before scheduling Interfaith events):

<https://www.interfaith-calendar.org/2022.htm>

Parliament of the World’s Religions: the World’s Premier Interfaith Convening Organization (organizes the worldwide conferences every 3 years): <https://parliamentofreligions.org>

United Religions Initiative: International peacemaking organization: <https://www.uri.org>

The Interfaith Observer: *Exploring Interreligious Relations and Interfaith Culture* (portal for Interfaith articles and videos): <http://www.theinterfaithobserver.org>

Rethinking Thanksgiving Toolkit: Indigenous Solidarity Network:

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1Me3v2fdjIPBQVkzALHhge2K8q4bCBc7cCBvVAZ11UQc/mobilebasic>

“The Importance Of Interfaith Understanding” (Commonwealth Club video):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EU2-iA_Qcgg

Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (Interfaith Environmental group with resources):

<https://www.interfaithsustain.com/>

Be a Disciple Course: **IFD226 – My Faith Meets My Privilege:** <https://beadisciple.com/online-christian-courses/ifd226-my-faith-meets-my-privilege/>

Interfaith Conflict Resolution training from the US Institute of Peace (online course):

<https://www.usip.org/education-training/courses/interfaith-conflict-resolution>

Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley trains Interfaith Chaplains for every setting:

<https://chaplaincyinstitute.org/why-interfaith/>

Post class assignment

Visiting a Masjid or Mosque (in person or online – Join a Friday Jumma Prayer - normally around 1 pm.). We hope you are able to visit with someone you are able to meet when going to a prayer service. If not, please seek out a dialogue with a Muslim to help inform your attendance at a prayer service. Ask good questions, inquire about history and context and any questions you may have. Invite them to share what is most meaningful to them, then answer the same questions for yourself. Please write a 5 page paper on your experience at the prayer service, and then describe the Interfaith dialogue(s) you were able to experience.

East Bay Masjids (houses of Muslim prayer)

San Ramon Valley Islamic Center

2232 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, CA 94583

925-405-5550 • srvic.org (largest Masjid in Contra Costa County)

Islamic Center of Zahra SA (Shia)

1249 Quarry Lane, Suite 150, Pleasanton, CA 94566

(925) 249-9408 • Dr. Ejaz Naqvi is a member here. He wrote *The Qu'ran: With or Against the Bible*

Walnut Creek Islamic Center

2449 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

(925) 798-5558 • Tarek El Dardiri staff. tarek.eldardiri@yahoo.com

Islamic Center of the East Bay

314 W 19th St, Antioch, CA 94509

(925) 756-1652 • Mohamed Chaudry, President, member of the Interfaith Council, very open to visitors. This community experienced a hate crime of arson in 2007 and rebuilt from the ashes with the help of the broader faith community including Rev. Will's congregation in Pittsburg.

Moorish Science Temple of America study group

Sheikess Talia Shekinah Bey

2139 Ohio Ave. Richmond, CA 94804

(510) 395-3162 call first and let Sheikess Talia know you know Rev. Will.

Brentwood Muslim Community Center

7701 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, CA 94513

925-497 2400 • <http://brmcc.org>

Islamic Center of Contra Costa

2836 Clayton Rd. Concord, CA 94510

925-682-4222

www.islamiccenterofcontracosta.com/

Pittsburg Islamic Center

300 E. 10th St. Pittsburg, CA 94565

Islamic Society of West Contra Costa County

(also called Masjid Al-Rahman)

1110 36th St. Richmond, CA 94804

(510) 236-8130

Muslim Community Center East Bay

5724 W Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton, CA 94588

(925) 485-1786

Islamic Center of Northern California (Shia)

1433 Madison St, Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 832-7600

Islamic Center of Fremont

4039 Irvington Ave, Fremont, CA 94538

(510) 661-0352

Islamic Center of Livermore

379 S Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

(925) 443-1826

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

(sect of Islam that believes their founder is the Messiah, treated much the same way Mormons have been treated by Christians.)

520 Pacifica Ave. Bay Point, CA 94565

Khurram Shah, President (925) 260-4764

West Bay Masjids (houses of Muslim prayer)

Islamic Society of San Francisco
20 Jones Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-3945
Khaled Ghaleb - issf@att.net
<https://islamsf.org>

Islamic Center of San Francisco (ICSF)

400 Crescent Ave, San Francisco, CA
icofsf@gmail.com · (415) 786-7860
<https://www.icofsf.org>

San Francisco Muslim Community Center

4760 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112
sfmuslimcc@gmail.com · (415) 337-1019

Masjid Noor Al-Islam

118 Jones Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
415-292-9709 • alsabeel@alsabeel.org
<https://www.alsabeel.org>

Masjid al-Tawheed

1227 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-8808 • masjidaltawhid@hotmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/MasjidALTawheed/>

Bay View Islamic Unity Center

1411 Thomas Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 822-6400 • <https://bayviewislamicunitycenter.weebly.com/>

Peninsula Muslim Association

361 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041
peninsulamuslimassociation@gmail.com
<http://peninsulamuslimassociation.com>

South Bay Islamic Association

Masjid al-Mustafa
2345 Harris Way
San Jose, Ca
P: (408) 526-0786
<https://sbia.info>

Sufi Centers

M.T.O. Shahmagsoudi® School of Islamic Sufism
2848 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 704-1888 • Reza Sharifzadeh at rsharifzadehk@gmail.com is a member of Will's Council

Sufi Center San Francisco

1090 Randolph Street, San Francisco, Ca
sufi@suficentersanfrancisco.org • 415-586-1313

Sufk Rhaniat International

SF Bay Area & Sonoma County
<https://sufipaths.net>