

## TAHARA AKMAL

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### EDUCATION

**M.Div. Equivalency Granted, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Decatur, GA (2011)**

**M.A. Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA (2009)**

**Islamic Studies and Pastoral Care/Counseling**, Thesis - *Islamic Law and Medical Ethics: Organ Transplant, Defining Death and Life Sustaining Devices*

**B.A. Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA (2006)**

**Psychology - Human Development with Minor in Religion, Ministry and Leadership**

Field Practicum - Chaplain Internship at Huntington Hospital, Pasadena, CA

**Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)** - Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD - 8 Supervisory and 3 Level II (2010-2015)

University of California Los Angeles Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA - 4 Level II (2009-2010)

Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, OH - 1 Level I (2007)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, West Reading, PA (2015-present)**

*ACPE Certified Educator*

**Bayan Claremont, Claremont, CA (May 2017-present)**

*Visiting Faculty*

**Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, PA (January 2017-present)**

*Adjunct Professor*

**West Virginia University Hospital, Morgantown, WV (June 2015-August 2015)**

*ACPE Associate Supervisor*

**The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD (March 2012-August 2015)**

*ACPE Associate Supervisor and ACPE Supervisory Education*

### COURSES TAUGHT

**Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)** - *ACPE Level I and Level II CPE and Certified Educator Training*

Interfaith healthcare chaplaincy for students required to take CPE for ordination, endorsement, seminary credit, chaplain board certification or discernment process. ACPE Certified Educator training through the integration of theology, the behavioral sciences, adult education theory and group theory.

**M.Div. in Islamic Chaplaincy** - *Theories and Practices of Spiritual Care*

Required course for students pursuing the M.Div. degree in Islamic Chaplaincy.

**M.A. in Chaplaincy** - *Introduction to Chaplaincy*

Required course for students pursuing the M.A. degree in Chaplaincy.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences** - Reading, PA (August 2015-present)

*Director of Clinical Pastoral Education, ACPE Certified Educator and Chaplain*

Provide leadership and oversight of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) CPE Program in accordance with the accreditation standards of ACPE with a focus to conduct programs of Level I and Level II CPE Resident and Intern Programs, and Certified Educator Training Program. Oversee the CPE admissions process, curriculum development and planning, community outreach and partnership with local clergy, CPE Professional Advisory Group and develop strategic partnerships with hospital staff to develop mentorship and didactic presenters to develop diverse opportunities for students' learning. Supervised the ACPE 10-Year re-accreditation site-review with a successful outcome of re-accreditation for the School of Health Sciences' CPE Program until 2025.

### **West Virginia University Hospital**, Morgantown, WV (June 2015-August 2015)

*ACPE Associate Supervisor*

Hired to supervise the final Summer CPE Level II Unit for the 2014-2015 Resident group. Created and implemented curricula that would support the students in meeting Level II CPE Outcomes and prepare for board certification with the Association for Professional Chaplains.

### **Johns Hopkins Hospital** - Baltimore, MD (September 2010-August 2015)

*ACPE Associate Supervisor and Chaplain (May 2015-August 2015), ACPE Supervisory Education Student and Chaplain (August 2011-May 2015) and CPE/Chaplain Resident (August 2010-August 2011)*

Developed and implemented curricula for Level I and II CPE programs. Assisted students to develop ministry skills through use of teaching methods that integrated the role of student's current spiritual practice, religious heritage, culture and personal history. Supervised student's individual ministry work, with attention to unique patterns of personal and professional development, learning styles and movement toward pastoral identity, competence and authority. As Chaplain, provided spiritual support to patients, family members, students and staff. Provided crisis interventions and assisted patients and families in using faith as a resource to cope with illness, trauma, and death.

### **University of California Los Angeles Medical Center**, CA (August 2009-August 2010)

*CPE/Chaplain Resident*

Provided spiritual support to patients, families and staff. Assessed spiritual care needs, assisted patients in reflection and to find inner resources to help them cope with illness and hospitalization. Provided support for families when making critical end-of-life care decisions. Encouraged and supported patient's spiritual questions and provided guidance on how to work through spiritual crises.

### **Odyssey Healthcare (Hospice)** West Covina, CA (November 2006-June 2009)

*Bereavement Coordinator*

Provided grief assessment and support to hospice patients and their family members prior to and following patient's death. Counseled individuals dealing with complicated grief. Developed bereavement care plan that included regular contact with patient's family members and other loved

ones over a 13-month period to offer support, services and bereavement resources. Planned and facilitated monthly grief support group, holiday grief group, and annual hospice memorial service.

**Niyah Productions** - Pasadena, CA (January 2000-August 2006)

*Owner and Executive Producer*

Produced media projects that promoted interreligious dialogue, combat stereotypes, and empower people through education and outreach. On-camera presenter and interviewer. Calculated production budgets, researched and wrote client production proposals, script writing and developed ideas for new projects to build bridges of mutual understanding and address issues of social concern faced by the diverse religious communities. Supervised and coordinated media production schedule; managed production technical crew; supervised post-production editing; developed marketing and distribution strategies for completed projects. Organized and managed client database and company records; provided customer service. Researched and identified new, innovative media products and services.

**Islamic Information Service** - Pasadena, CA (November 1996-August 2006)

*Co-Anchor, Segment Producer and Reporter*

On-air Co-Anchor for weekly television program *American Muslim Hour*. Provided script writing, coordinated and planned production schedule for interview segments. Responded to viewer telephone calls and e-mails, answered viewer questions and addressed their concerns. Distributed literature and promoted the organization and TV Program at national conventions.

## **PUBLICATIONS / COLLABORATION**

### **Journal Article Collaboration**

“How Islam Influences End-of-Life Care: Education for Palliative Care Clinicians.” *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. Vol. 52, No. 6, December 2016, pp. 771-774.

Interfaith and Intercultural Symposium on Compassion. *Reflective, Practice, Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, 32 (Spring 2012): 78-81.

### **Book Review**

*Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach* by Carrie Doehring. *Reflective, Practice, Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, 28 (Spring 2008): 269-272.

### **Newspaper Article**

“Holding out Hope for Peace in Holy Land: A visit to Israel and Palestine.” *Muslim Journal* (Homewood, IL) 24, Feb. 2004: 1, 6, 26.

“Muslim, Christian and Jewish Children Sing for Peace in Memory of Wall Street Journal Reporter Daniel Pearl.” *Muslim Journal* (Homewood, IL) 30, Nov. 2004: 5.

### **Magazine Article**

“Islam and the Media.” *Azizah Magazine* (Fall 2001): 1, (4), 36-38.

### **Newsletter**

Palliative & end of life care. UCLA Health System, Relationship Based Care Time, Medical Intensive Care Unit. (2010, March) (2), 1, 3.

## **Blog**

T. Akmal. (2009, November 9). Do we live what we believe? [Web log comment]. Retrieved from <http://www.wehopres.org/november-9-2009-do-we-live-what-we-believe>

## **DVD/Video**

Akmal T. (Producer) & Akmal T., Sallman, N. (Directors). (2008) *The Meaning of Life and Death in Judaism, Catholicism, Islam and Buddhism* [Educational DVD]. Claremont, CA: Niyyah Productions.

Akmal T. (Producer) & Abdus-Samad, R., Akmal T., Sallman, N. (Directors). *Ramadan and Fasting in Islam: A Universal Act of Worship* [Educational Video]. Altadena, CA: Niyyah Productions.

## **RECOGNITIONS / HONORS**

**Lifetime Achievement Award** - Muslim American Chaplain's Association (October 2016)

**Responsible Social Engagement Award** - Claremont School of Theology (May 2009)

**Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology** - Vanguard University (May 2006)

**Women in the Media Award** - Muslim Women's League (April 2003)

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

West Berks Mission District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Annual Table Talk Event, *My Neighbor is a Muslim*, Reading, PA (October 2017)

Muslim American Chaplain's Association, American Muslim Community Endorsement Annual Chaplain Training, *Spiritual, Religious and Psychological Care*, Fresno, CA (October 2017)

Spirit on Tap: Reading, Panelist: *Contributions of Islam to Western Civilization*, Reading, PA, 2017 (September 2017)

Masjid Muhammed, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual New Africa Students of Imam Muhammed Conference, *Racism, Islamophobia, and Mental Health*, Panelist, Arlington, VA (April 2017)

Spirit on Tap: Reading, *Role of Women in Islamic Culture*, Wyomissing, PA (April 2017)

World Affairs Council of Greater Reading, *Islam in America: My Journey as an Interfaith Hospital Chaplain*, Reading, PA (January 2017)

Muslim Journal News Annual Time to be Grateful Conference, Panelist: *Strengthening Families: Cultural Challenges and Faith Community Solutions*, Kansas City, MO (December 2016)

Muslim American Chaplain's Association, American Muslim Community Endorsement Annual Chaplain Training, *Chaplaincy: Integration of Theology, Psychology and Self*, Fresno, CA (October 2016)

International Institute of Islamic Thought Fiqh Forum on Organ Donation, ***Chaplains Critical Role on Hospital Medical Bioethics Committee and in End-of-Life Care***, Fairfax, VA (July 2016)  
Spiritual Exploration Project Interfaith Symposium, Panelist: ***Violence and God***, Reading, PA (April 2016)

Kind Fahad Medical City Health Spiritual Care Initiatives and Experiences, ***Clinical Pastoral Education: An Overview***, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (January 2013)

Hospice Foundation of America Annual National Bereavement Education Conference, Living with Grief, Spirituality and End-of-Life, ***Care for Muslim Patients at End-of-Life***, Baltimore, MD (May 2011)

Hsilai Friends Interfaith Dialogue Conference, ***5 Pillars of Islam: A Pathway to a Life of Compassion***, Rosemead, CA (March 2010)

American Muslim Healthcare Professionals Annual Conference, ***Hospital Chaplaincy: Listening and Presence***, Yorba Linda, CA (November 2009)

National Hospice and Palliative Care Annual Convention, Panelist: ***Stories Speak: Using Storytelling in Dealing with End-of-Life Issues***, New Orleans, LA (April 2007)

Islamic Shura Council Conference, ***Hospice Care and Islam***, Ontario, CA, (February 2007)

Tokyo Chamber of Commerce 39<sup>th</sup> Future Conception Forum: Exploring Civilization and Religion: Dialogue with Islamic Leaders, ***Islamic Perspective of Peace***, Tokyo, Japan, (March 2005)

Women's Federation for World Peace, ***Women as Peacemakers: Building Bridges for Peace in the Middle East***, Los Angeles, CA (May 2004)

Interreligious International Peace Council Interfaith Peace and Reconciliation Conference, ***New Starting Points and Alternative Visions for Peace in the Middle East***, Jerusalem, Israel (December 2003)

## INTERFAITH AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Eastern Region Annual Conference, ***the New Certification Process for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Certified Educators***, Albany, NY (November 2017)

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Guest Lecturer, Course: Death and Dying, ***End-of-Life Care and Rituals in Islam***, Wyncote, PA (October 2017)

Atonement Lutheran Church, ***Islamic Perspective of Interfaith Relationships***, Wyomissing, PA (July 2017)

St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, ***Bridging the Gap Between Islam and Christianity***, Shillington PA (April 2017)

Atonement Lutheran Church, Women of Atonement Ash Wednesday Event, *Interfaith Ministry: A Spiritual Journey*, Wyomissing, PA (March 2017)

Allegheny Lutheran Church, presentation and discussion on BBC/PBS DVD “*Beyond Our Differences*”, Allegheny, PA (February 2017)

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Eastern Region Annual Conference, *Post-Protestant Pathos: Multi-faith Realities in CPE* Panel Discussion, Stony Point, NY (November 2016)

Providence Alaska Medical Center Clinical Pastoral Education Program, *How to Provide Spiritual Care to our Muslim Patients*, Video Conference from Reading, PA (November 2016)

Trinity Lutheran Church, *A Chaplain’s Spiritual Journey*, Reading, PA (October 2016)

Johns Hopkins University Graduate Muslim Student Association Annual Spirit of Service Award Ceremony and Banquet, *Chaplaincy: A Call to Service*, Baltimore, MD (May 2016)

Alvernia University Senior’s College, *Understanding Islam and Muslims*, Reading, PA (May 2016)

Princeton Theological Seminary, Guest Lecturer, Course: Islam in America, *A Chaplain’s Spiritual Journey*, Princeton, NJ (April 2016)

St. Albans Episcopal Church, *Islam and Interfaith Ministry*, Sinking Springs, PA (March 2016)

Immanuel United Church of Christ, 5 Week Lenten Season Symposium, Co-Presenter: *the Jesus Fatwa: Love your Muslim Neighbor as Yourself*, Shillington, PA (February-March 2016)

St. John’s Lutheran Church, presenter and co-worship leader, *Christians and Muslims: Followers of Father Abraham*, Reading, PA (February 2016)

Islamic Center of Reading, *Interfaith and Islam: A Chaplain’s Perspective*, Reading, PA (January 2016)

University of Maryland Baltimore Annual Conference, Religious, Medical, Ethical and Legal Perspectives on End of Life Issues, Panelist: *How to Maintain Dignity, Respect and Familial Cohesion as our Loved Ones and Patients Age*, Baltimore, MD (November 2015)

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Guest Lecturer, Course: Faith and Health, *Islam 101 and Care for Muslim Patients*, Baltimore, MD (July 2015)

West Virginia University Hospital Spiritual Care Department and Palliative Medicine, *Islamic Medical Bioethics and Care for Muslim Patients*, Morgantown, WV (July 2015)

Fragrance of Faith Ministries 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, *Reflection from a Daughter of Islam*, Owings Mills, MD (April 2015)

University of Maryland Baltimore Annual Conference, Religious, Medical, Ethical and Legal Perspectives on End of Life Issues, Panelist: *Islamic Medical Bioethics and End-of-Life Care for Muslims*, Baltimore, MD (November 2014)

National Institute of Health (NIH) Pastoral Care Department, *Islam 101 and Care for Muslim Patients*, Bethesda, MD (October 2013)

Johns Hopkins Hospital Department of Pediatrics, *Cultural Competency: What Does Religion Have to Do With It?* Baltimore, MD (October 2013)

Johns Hopkins University Faculty Development, Longitudinal Curriculum Development Course, Research Project: *Chaplains on the Medical Team: An Inter-Professional Partnership in Patient Care*, Baltimore, MD (June 2013)

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Diversity Dialogue Quarterly Lecture Series, Panelist: *The Influence of Cultural Values and Faith During the Holiday Season: What Health Care Providers Need to Know*, Baltimore, MD (March 2013)

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing End-of-Life-Education Nursing Consortium, *Cultural and Spiritual Considerations in Geriatrics*, Baltimore, MD (January 2013)

Johns Hopkins Hospital Diversity Committee, Religious In-Service for Operating Room Staff, *How to Care for Muslim Patients Before, and After Surgery*, Baltimore, MD (August 2012)

Calvary Baptist Church, *A Muslim Woman's Journey to Chaplaincy*, Towson, MD (July 2012)

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Perspectives of Faith in the Health Care Context: A Panel Discussion on Three Traditions, *Compassion: Foundational Principle from Islam to Provide Care for All People*, Baltimore, MD (May 2012)

Gunpowder Friends Quaker Meeting, *My Journey to Chaplaincy as a Muslim Woman*, Sparks, MD (April 2012)

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Guest Lecturer, Course: Faith and Health, *Islam 101 and Care for Muslim Patients*, Baltimore, MD (November 2011)

Johns Hopkins Hospital End-of-Life Nursing and Care Conference, *Cultural Considerations in End-of-Life Care*, Baltimore, MD (September 2010)

Masjid Al-Shareef Annual Unity Tailem, *The Spirit of Ramadan is the Spirit of the Qur'an*, Long Beach, CA (August 2008)

St. Camillus and Catholic Archdiocese Center for Pastoral Care, *Islam and Care for the Spiritual Needs of Muslim Patients*, Los Angeles, CA (February 2008)

The Mosque Cares Annual Convention, *Mistress of Ceremonies* for Imam W. Deen Mohammed Public Address and Awards Banquet, Chicago, IL (September 2005)

Los Angeles Peace Family Church, *WWW Without the Dot: Women Working Wonders Without Limits*, Los Angeles, CA (July 2004)

Interreligious International Foundation for World Peace Los Angeles Ambassadors for Peace Conference, *Reflections on Our Trip to Israel and Palestine*, Lynwood, CA (January 2004)

Muslim Friends of the Focolare Conference, *Muslim-Catholic Dialogue*, Castel Gandolfo, Italy (November 2002)

## COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

The Highlands at Wyomissing, *Care for Our Spirituality Yields Health*, Panel Discussion Wyomissing, PA (October 2017)

Lehigh Valley Hospice, 2017 Learning Series: Cultures & Death Rituals, *Islam 101, Care for Muslim Patients and End-of-Life Rituals*, Allentown, PA (May 2017)

Transgender Day of Remembrance Memorial Service, *Reading of the Names*, Reading, PA (November 2016)

Circle of Life Coalition End-of-Life Seminar, *Care for Muslim Patients*, Reading, PA (August 2016)

Reading Pride Week Interfaith Service Panelist, *Reflection on the 99 Attributes of the Divine*, Reading, PA (July 2016)

The Highlands at Wyomissing, *Fundamental Tenants of Islam*, Wyomissing, PA (April 2016)

The Highlands at Wyomissing, *Islamic Perspective of Interfaith Relationships*, Wyomissing, PA (November 2015)

Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland Annual Service of Remembrance *Invocation and Benediction*, Baltimore, MD (June 2015)

Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland, *Organ Donation: An Islamic Perspective*, Baltimore, MD (August 2014)

St. Agnes Hospital Annual Memorial Service, *Prayer and Reflection*, Baltimore, MD (August 2014)

Living Legacy Foundation Maryland, *Islam and Organ Donation*, Baltimore, MD (April 2011)

Los Angeles Police Department Interfaith Event, *Interfaith Collaboration and Appreciation for LAPD Officers*, Los Angeles, CA (May 2004)

Princeton Club of Southern California, *Women in Islam*, Los Angeles, CA (October 2001)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Supporter and Participant**, Women's March on Washington, Washington, DC (January 2017)

**Disaster Chaplain**, Islamic Relief USA, Alexandria, VA (2012-present)

**Board of Directors**, YWCA Foothill/Pasadena Chapter, Pasadena, CA (2005-2006)

**Executive Committee**, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Anaheim, CA (2003-2010)



**Peace Ambassador**, Interreligious Intl. Federation for World Peace, New York, NY (2002-present)

## **CERTIFICATIONS / TRAINING**

**Veterans Mental Health, Military Culture and Wounds of War/Operation S.A.V.E. Suicide Intervention** - Coatesville VA Hospital, Coatesville, PA (September 2017)

**Encountering Other Faiths Interfaith Dialogue Facilitator Training** - Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (November 2016)

**Longitudinal Curriculum Development** - Johns Hopkins University Faculty Development, Baltimore, MD (August 2012-June 2013)

**Level III Master Disaster Chaplain and Trainer** - Islamic Relief USA and Spiritual Care Field Operations Disaster Mental Health and Self Care, New York, NY (November 2012)

**Introduction to Incident Command System** - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD (November 2012)

**Psychological First Aid** - Johns Hopkins Preparedness and Emergency Response Center, Baltimore, MD (March 2011)

**Muslim-Jewish Text Study** - Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement, Los Angeles, CA (March-June 2009)

**Mastering Mysteries of Love Relationship Communication** - Clinebell Institute, Claremont, CA (August 2008)

**FOCCUS Program, Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study** - Clinebell Institute, Claremont, CA (February 2008)

**Early Childhood Loss and Family Bereavement** - Beyond Loss, Glendale, CA (June 2007)

**Leadership Development** - Day One Prevention Institute, Pasadena, CA (November 2001)

**Domestic Violence Awareness** - Peaceful Families Project, Los Angeles, CA (May 2001)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.**, Decatur, GA (September 2011-present)

*ACPE Certified Educator (March 2016-present)*

*Certification Reform and Implementation Committee (November 2016-present)*

*Associate CPE Supervisor (May 2015-March 2016)*

*Clinical Member (November 2011-May 2015)*

**Muslim American Chaplains Association**, Hanford, CA (September 2011-present)

## **ECCLESIASTICAL**

**American Muslim Community Endorsing Agency, Hanford, CA (2011)**