

“Meet your Muslim Neighbor”

Your church is hosting a forum: “Meet Your Muslim Neighbor.” The speaker is from the local Islamic Community Center. He is an articulate, friendly Muslim. You’re interested!

You know that Minnesota has a large and growing Muslim population (between 35,000 and 100,000 Somalis). You also know that Minnesota has produced more would-be foreign Islamic fighters than any other state.

You want to find local Muslims who support **modernity, freedom, and liberty**.

You want to find fellow Christians who won’t **shame** and **scold** you for asking for straight talk.

Here are questions you might ask at the forum:

- 1) Where are the voices of modernity, freedom, and liberty in Islam? In the *Muslim Reform Movement*, specifically their declaration on peace, human rights, and secular government (www.muslimreformmovement.org). Would you promote this declaration at your Center? Would you meet with us another time to talk about this declaration?
- 2) Do you support separating mosque and state?
- 3) Do you think Americans, Muslim and non-Muslim, should be free to criticize Islam and Mohammed?
- 4) Do you support the right of the state of Israel to exist and have secure borders as do all free nations?
- 5) What do you teach about Jews? Can you show us any educational materials from your Center that show what you teach about Jews?
- 6) Do you support the right of Muslims to leave Islam without fear of ostracism, intimidation, and reprisal?
- 7) What percentage of women who attend your Center regularly wear headscarves? What percentage are fully covered? What percentage of women who attend your Center wear Western clothing and no scarves?
- 8) Do you think Hamas and Hezbollah are properly designated as terrorist organizations by the United States?

Questions specific to the Northwest Islamic Community Center, Plymouth, MN

- 1) Your website (www.nwicc-mn.org) states that you have applied for a religious visa for a permanent Imam. Isn’t it likely that such an Imam will be hostile to American freedoms, including the full equality of men and women, secular government, and free speech?
- 2) Your website states that you support CAIR (*Council on American-Islamic Relations*), a self-described civil rights group. But in 2009 Federal Judge Jorge Solis issued an order affirming the Department of Justice’s designation of CAIR as an unindicted co-conspirator in its prosecution of the Holy Land Foundation and others for providing support to the terrorist group Hamas. Would the leaders of your Center consider dropping support for CAIR?