

Encounter Islam

A Program of the Center for Interfaith Reconciliation,
Richmond, Virginia

The Rev. Dr. William L. Sachs, Director
804-288-2867 | bsachs@saintstephensrichmond.net

Founded in 2006 by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the Center sponsors educational and cultural immersion experiences for business and civic groups, schools and colleges, and churches. The Center participates in major interfaith gatherings and promotes local initiatives that build understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths.

Registration Form		
Name		
Position/Title and Place of Employment		
Email		
Business Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Address		
City, State, Zip		<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Business
Payment		
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment enclosed (\$195 per person)	Please make checks payable to Center for Interfaith Reconciliation and return to: CIR St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, VA 23226	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	
Name as it appears on card		
Card number	Expiration date	
Signature		

Encounter Islam

*Creating the foundation for interfaith understanding
and cooperation where we live and work*



October 27-November 17, 2009

Encounter Islam is a thorough introduction to one of the fastest growing and most complex phenomena of our time. Going beyond media images and popular stereotypes, **Encounter Islam** provides hard facts and unbiased information about Islam worldwide: its history, beliefs, and traditional practices, along with major political and social trends associated with Islam.

This five-part course also introduces participants to growing Muslim communities in local areas across the United States. By combining expert classroom presentations and personal encounters, **Encounter Islam** provides indispensable tools for effective engagement with Muslims at home and abroad.

Graduates of **Encounter Islam** receive timely information about local and international developments, notification about speakers and special events in their area, and information about discovery trips to the Middle East sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Reconciliation based in Richmond, Virginia.

Encounter Islam consists of four morning discussions and a Friday visit to a mosque.

I. Images and Realities

October 27, 2009, 7:30-9 a.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Participants will consider the varied images of Islam and test them against basic facts about the world's second largest religion.

II. What Went Wrong?

November 3, 2009, 7:30-9 a.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
How did relations between Muslims, Christians, and Jews become strained? This session summarizes turning points in the relations of Islam to its neighboring religions and to the Western world. We will also consider key trends among women and youth in the Muslim world.

III. Meeting Local Muslims

November 10, 2009, 7:30-9 a.m., Mediterranean Bakery, 9004 Quioccasin Road, 754-8895
In this session we will discuss the hopes, convictions, and perceptions of local Muslims with a group of this community's key leaders.

IV. A Visit to a Mosque

Friday, November 13, 2009, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Virginia Islamic Center, 1241 Buford Road, 320-7333



Through observing Friday prayer and discussing the meaning of religious faith for Muslims, we will glimpse the deep spirituality of Islam. We will also have the chance to learn about the activities of this faith community and its sense of its role among the Richmond faith community.

V. What We Can Do Together

November 17, 2009, 7:30-9 a.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

In our final session we ask how understanding can encourage cooperation. Reviewing our sessions, we will identify common values that can inform life and leadership in the workplace and civic life.

Presenters include:

William L. Sachs, Director, Center for Interfaith Reconciliation

Taylor Mundy, Project Team, **Encounter Islam**

Imad ad-Dean Ahmad, Minaret of Freedom Institute, Bethesda, Maryland

Jameel Abed, Al Khalafalla, Muhammad Sahli, Richmond Muslim leaders

Isabelle Kinnard Richman, Council on America's First Freedom, Richmond