

# **Jamir Dean Meah**

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## **CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

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### **Wesleyan University (CT, USA) | December 2022 – Present**

*Assistant Director, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life | Muslim Chaplain | Faculty*

- Serve on a multi-faith chaplaincy team at a diverse liberal arts college, supporting students, faculty, and staff.
- Provide pastoral care and counseling in a safe, confidential, and nonjudgmental space through drop-in hours, coffee chats, and after-work access.
- Teach full-credit academic courses cross-listed with multiple departments. Past courses include *Spiritual Autobiography: Building Communities through Interfaith Literacy*. Currently developing courses on Islamic philosophy, Islam in America, and Islamic theology and law.
- Collaborate with faculty on courses and seminars, including Sufism, Arabic, Islam, Central Asian and Muslim world music, and *al-Barzakh* in the context of refugees, nation-states, and classical studies.
- Build strategic partnerships across campus to enhance and promote spiritual well-being and interfaith literacy.
- Provide leadership and guidance during national and international crises, facilitating campus-wide listening and sharing circles on global conflicts, organizing vigils for tragedies, and leading fundraising efforts—raising over \$5,000 for Turkey-Syria Earthquake relief (2023) and \$1,000 for Hurricane Helene victims (2024). Deliver opening and closing speeches at major campus events, including Commencement and the Athlete-Scholar Dinner.
- Organize and participate in faculty panel discussions, including a post-election 2024 panel and *Swords to Plowshares*, an interactive event where the campus community transforms guns into items of beauty and utility, followed by a panel on violence, non-violence, and mercy.
- Found and mentor MILC! (Mega Interfaith Literacy Council)—a student-led interfaith leadership group fostering dialogue and collaboration through off-campus retreats, interfaith literacy events, leadership training (e.g., difficult conversations, conflict resolution), community service with local religious institutions, experiencing diverse religious services and celebrations, and social outings like apple picking and hikes.
- Mentor and provide leadership to the MSA board and community while educating the campus on Islam and Muslim life. This includes leadership training and workshops, monthly learning circles, presentations, and intellectually and spiritually enriching programs. Lead weekly and celebratory religious services (e.g., Jumu'ah, Eid, Ramadan events, new student orientation, homecoming, commencement). Advise campus partners on religious accommodations and advocate for Muslim needs, securing designated prayer space, improved budgets, and dining accommodations. Assist the Admissions Office in supporting prospective Muslim students and families, including liaising with institutions like Princeton for fly-in programs.
- Member of Student Affairs' Professional Development Committee.

## **PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS**

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### **Key to the Garden Foundation (UK, Jordan) | Dec 2019 – Dec 2022**

*Founder | Resident Scholar*

- Led a team in designing and implementing affordable online courses on theology (*kalam*), spirituality, law, legal hermeneutics, classical logic, Quranic exegesis, and prophetic biography.
- Developed and taught courses for non-Muslims to foster understanding of Islam and address misconceptions, as well as specialized programs for Muslim converts.
- Provided private religious consultancy, guidance, and pastoral care to community members.
- Promoted interfaith literacy by collaborating with multi-faith leaders and organizations to address local challenges during COVID-19, developing strategies, and implementing solutions. In 2020, I organized an initiative uniting mosques, churches, and educational institutions in Amman (Jordan) to distribute food, clothing, medical supplies, and female-necessity packages in refugee camps, alongside social events and heritage site excursions to foster interfaith dialogue.

- Managed projects and supervised a team of staff and remote volunteers, ensuring efficient execution through strong organizational and communication skills.
- Created and maintained a Telegram Q&A group with 800 members, answering over 1,000 questions.

#### **SeekersGuidance Islamic Seminary (Canada) | 2016 – 2020**

*Senior Faculty | Co-Head of Curriculum Development | Researcher*

- Led a team of six scholars, staff, and volunteers in the Department of Law and Theology, developing and delivering original educational programs from beginner to advanced levels.
- Taught courses on Islamic law and theology, providing structured and accessible learning.
- Provided holistic religious guidance and pastoral care through the SeekersGuidance Q&A service for an international student community.
- Organized and participated in *Deen Intensive* programs, spiritual retreats, and educational events.
- Researched and authored original articles and delivered thematic podcast series on Islamic thought and practice.
- Answered over 800 questions and provided legal verdicts (*fatwa*) on a range of religious and spiritual topics.

## **EDUCATION**

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#### **Hartford Seminary (CT, USA) | MA in Interreligious Studies with Islamic Studies | 2023**

- Recipient of the 2023 Mahmoud Ayoub Prize for academic excellence and contributions to Muslim-Christian relations for the paper "*An Analysis of al-Ghazali's 'A Fitting Refutation of the Divinity of Jesus' (Al-Radd al-Jamil)*."
- Courses included Interreligious Studies, Muslim-Christian Relations, American Religious Realities, Muslims in American Religious History, Chaplaincy Models and Methods, Muslim Pastoral Theology, Sociology and Psychology for Chaplains, Islamic Theology, Law, Ethics, Exegesis, Spirituality, and Arabic.
- Thesis: "*Prophetic Muslim Pastoral Theology: A Systematic Approach to Spiritual Care*."

#### **St. Francis Hospital, Trinity Health of New England (CT, USA) | Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) | June – August 2023**

- Served in an interfaith pastoral care unit at a Level 3 trauma hospital, covering ED, CCU, and NICU.
- Provided pastoral care, advocacy, and emotional support for patients, families, and staff, including 12-hour night shifts and emergency response.
- Underwent intensive pastoral education, supervision, and training through individual and group sessions, including shadowing.
- Participated in weekly verbatim discussions and led interfaith services and hospital-wide prayers.
- Researched and authored theological papers on pastoral care topics.

#### **Al Balagh Academy (UK) | Muslim Chaplaincy Certificate | 2022**

#### **Dar al-Mustafa Islamic Seminary – Ribat Tarim (Tarim, Yemen) / Private Studies (Amman, Jordan) | 2007 – 2022**

- Extensive training in Islamic sciences under the direct mentorship of renowned scholars, with advanced studies in Arabic grammar, logic, sacred law, legal hermeneutics, theology (*kalam*), Sufism, Quranic exegesis, hadith studies, and prophetic biography.
- Received teaching authorization (*ijaza*) in multiple disciplines and permission to issue legal rulings (*fatawa*).

#### **London South Bank University (UK) | BSc (Hons) in Media and Society | 2000**

- Major/Minor: Film & Television Production / Web & Graphic Design

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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- Member of the Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education (ACLSHE)
- Member of the Association of Muslim Chaplains (AMC)
- Member of the British Board of Scholars and Imams (BBSI)

## LANGUAGES & SKILLS

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- English (native), Arabic (fluent), Spanish (conversational)

## SERMONS, LECTURES, ARTICLES, & MONOGRAPHS

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### Selected Sermons & Lectures

*Black Crescent: Islam in Black America* – Wesleyan University, CT, 2025

*The Life of the Prophet* – Wesleyan University, CT, 2023

*The Need for Accessibility in Muslim Communities* – MCCT Leadership Banquet, CT, 2023

*Defeating Extremism Through Theology, Law, and Spirituality* - Dhikra Institute, Jordan, 2022

*The Qur'an and Social Justice* - Dallas Islamic Center, USA, 2021

*Principles of the Spiritual Path* - Bahrain Islamic Community Center, 2019

*Abrahamic Prophets in the Islamic Tradition* - Dar al Huda University, India, 2014

### Selected Articles and Monographs

*Islamic Ethics and Climate Change* - Key to the Garden Foundation

*Health and Disease within an Islamic Framework* - SeekersGuidance Islamic Seminary

*The Fiqh of Fasting: A Comprehensive Guide to the Sacred Month* - Key to the Garden Foundation

## REFERENCES

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- **Rabbi David Leipzig Teva**, Director of the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life and University Jewish Chaplain, Wesleyan University, (CT, USA) - dleipzig@wesleyan.edu
- **Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer**, Fellow, Centre for Islamic Studies, Cambridge University (UK). Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (USA) – hah@hahellyer.com
- **Shaykh Faraz Rabbani**, Founder and Senior Instructor, SeekersGuidance Global Islamic Seminary (Canada) – faraz@seekershub.org