

NATIONAL MULTI-FAITH NEIGHBORS NETWORK.

Pastor Bob Roberts, Jr.
from Multi-Faith Neighbors Network



“Do your work, focus, and leave the rest to god”

IMAM MOHAMED MAGID

BACKGROUND

Sudan is going through a very difficult and challenging time, politically and socially. The country faced a series of coups in 2019 and 2021. As a result, Sudan continues to experience a difficult environment and strong sense of distrust among the Sudanese people. We recognized Sudan would be a challenge, but it was more difficult than anyone expected.

DURING THE RETREAT

February 7-9, 2023 | Khartoum

GOAL

Address some of the polarization issues in Sudan
Potentially give the reconciling effort another platform and opportunity for people to work together.

LED BY



ATTENDEES

20 FEMALE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS FROM KHARTOUM

A **pastor** and an **Imam** from USA Joined our MFNN team.

From Khartoum and 5 outlying provinces including Darfur Traveled in Pairs:

1 IMAM & 1 PASTOR FROM EACH REGION

26 CLERICS



“This was the first time that we have intentionally included a track for women in these retreats.”

RESPONSE TO THE RETREAT

The Retreat was very engaging for clerics and women.



PARTICIPANTS...



Responded very well and remained highly committed through the entire three days.

Spent time getting to know one another, listening to a few lectures, and mostly engaging in workshop activities together.



Deliberated on what challenges existed that might create barriers to collaboration.

Considered the perceptions of one another.



Ultimately partnered to create specific, measurable action plans to engage in collaborative activities in their communities.

“The Sudanese people are amazing and it was so encouraging and moving to see the different faith leaders working together to build bridges of peace.”

NIKI ROBERTS,
Co-led the women's group



SIGNS OF SUCCESS

One Imam in attendance vocally complained about the activities we were engaging in, believing it was problematic to bring up various challenges, biases and disagreements between the religious communities. However, on the final day of the retreat, he returned to tell us that his mind had been changed, and that this was an excellent retreat. He was motivated and encouraged.

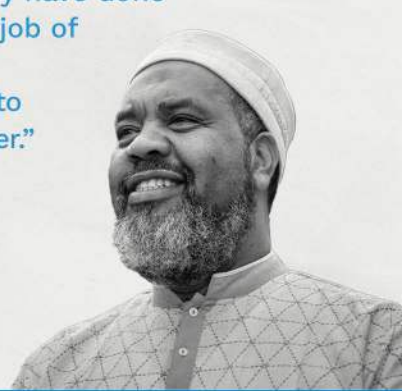
Female congregational leaders were highly engaged, energetic, and responsive. They put together very helpful proposals to engage their communities, with specific steps necessary to engage and serve them.

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE RETREAT

- Women must be included moving forward.
- Women provided fresh energy and engagement that also served to motivate the male clergy who were present.
- Women had more concrete ideas to serve the more disadvantaged in their communities.
- Sudan is ready for this type of activity.
- Clergy were responsive and very excited about engaging with each other, even though they often had not previously done so.

Reflections from Imam Magid, whose father was the Grand Mufti in Sudan.

“The most unique thing about this workshop in Sudan, is women participation with Muslim women, Christian women. They have done an amazing job of committing themselves to work together.”



ABOUT MULTI-FAITH NEIGHBORS NETWORK

MFNN builds mutual trust and respect among faith leaders through civic engagement, authentic relationships, and honest dialogue leading to resilient, compassionate, and flourishing communities.

Founded by Pastor Bob Roberts Jr., Imam Mohamed Magid & Rabbi David Saperstein, MFNN coordinates grassroots movements with religious leaders across various faith traditions, while never sacrificing each faith tradition's unique theological identity.

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