

The Mecca Center

5th Annual Converts' Conference

A Compass in Faith: Retracing the Steps of the First Believers

April 24–26, 2026

Community Night (Prayer Hall)

Friday, April 24

- **7:30 - 9 PM:** **Sheikh Yousef Wahb:** *The Courage to Believe: Lessons from the First Converts* (A reflection on the earliest Muslims who embraced Islam despite uncertainty, pressure, and sacrifice.)
 - **9 – 10:00 PM:** Ice Cream Social
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Saturday, April 25

Morning Session:

- **10:00 AM – 10:00 PM:** Conference Bazaar Open
- **9:45 – 11:45AM:** **Community and Leadership Training** by Convert Engagement Committee - Youth Lounge (Opposite Banquet Hall)
- **12 – 1PM:** Leadership Training Lunch

Saturday, April 25, Banquet Hall

Afternoon Session - Main Program:

- **1:30 – 2:00 PM:** Conference Registration, Welcome & Community Engagement

SEGMENT 1: The Courage of the First Believers

2:00 – 3:45 PM

- **2:05 – 2:30 PM:** **Imam Dawud Walid**: *Faith Under Pressure: Standing Firm Like the First Muslims* (Exploring the lives of early companions who endured persecution, family pressure, and hardship while remaining steadfast in faith.)
 - **2:25 – 2:50 PM:** **Sister Hazel Gomez**: *When Faith Changes Everything: Identity, Family & Belonging* (A look at how embracing Islam reshaped relationships, identity, and sense of belonging—then and now.)
 - **2:50 - 3:45 PM:** Q&A + Community Reflection Workshop
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Saturday, April 25, Banquet Hall

SEGMENT 2: Learning Islam the Way the Companions Did

4:00 – 5:45 PM

- **4:00 - 4:25PM:** **Sheikh Joe Bradford**: *Faith Through Companionship: The Prophetic Model of Learning* (How the Companions were nurtured through mentorship, community, and lived example—and what this teaches us today.)

- **4:25 - 4:50PM: Sister Angelica Lindsey-Ali: *Raising the Next Generation of Believers* (Lessons from the Companions on nurturing faith within families and building strong foundations for future generations.)**
 - **4:50 - 5:45PM: Q&A + Practical Community Workshop**
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5:45 PM — Asr Prayer

SEGMENT 3: Carrying the Legacy Forward

6:15 – 8:00 PM

6:15 - 6:40PM: Imam Tom Facchine: *From Believers to Builders: How the Companions Built the Ummah* (How the first Muslims transformed faith into leadership, service, and community-building.)

6:40 - 7:05 PM: Ustadh Ubaydallah Evans: *Every Believer Has a Role* (A reflection on purpose, contribution, and how each individual can actively shape the future of the community.)

7:05 - 7:45PM: Q&A + Legacy in Action Workshop

7:45 PM — Maghrib Prayer

8:00 – 9:00 PM — Dinner

9:15 PM — Isha Prayer

Sunday, April 26: Reflection & Community Day

- **1:00 – 3:00 PM: *Coffee Social at Shaghf Cafe***

Sunday, April 26: Reflection & Community Day

Mecca Banquet Hall

- **3:45 – 4:10 PM: Chaplain Abdul-Malik Ryan: *Between Two Worlds: Letting Go and Holding On*** (What does it mean to step into faith without losing yourself? A look at the balance between letting go, holding on, and finding belonging in Islam.)
- **4:10 – 4:40 PM: Sheikh Tahir Wyatt: *The Character of the Companions*** (Exploring the defining qualities of the first Muslims—humility, sincerity, generosity, patience, and honesty—and how these traits shaped the early Muslim community.)
- **4:40 - 5:30: Panel Discussion with Chaplain Abdul-Malik Ryan and Sheikh Tahir Wyatt**

5:30 PM: Snacks

5:45 PM: Asr

- **6:00 – 6:20 PM: Sister Aisha Gray Henry: *Faith That Endures Across a Lifetime*** (A reflection on how the companions sustained their faith through changing circumstances, success, and hardship, and what it means to grow spiritually over a lifetime.)
- **6:20 – 7:45 PM: ConverTsations: *Conference Takeaways*** (A guided community reflection exploring lessons from the companions and how we can carry their example forward in our lives and community.)