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Seminaries Partner to Create Interfaith Degree Program

St. Paul, August 6, 2020 /PRNewswire/— **United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (United)** and **The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA)** are proud to announce their partnership in developing a graduate degree from United in Interreligious Chaplaincy with a focus on Islam. This fully accredited MDiv degree will be composed of United’s Interreligious Chaplaincy courses along with other general courses offered through United, and core courses in Islamic theology and religious texts taken through TISA **with a faculty led by Dean Yasir Qadhi Ph.D.** The degree will be available to students beginning in January 2021.

This partnership brings to bear the unique strengths of each seminary. TISA, established in 2018, prepares Muslim leaders to serve Islam and the American Muslim community. It aspires to raise the general level of Islamic understanding within the American Muslim community and throughout American society. TISA has created content and models for teaching multi-course graduate level programs in Islamic Studies and Non-profit Management along with an MDiv. United is an ecumenical graduate school with roots in the United Church of Christ that embraces all denominations and faith traditions and has been on the cutting edge of progressive theological thought leadership since it was established in 1962. United is an ATS and HLC-accredited graduate school that offers several (MA, MAL, MDiv, and DMin) degree options, all with distance learning options.

Reflecting the growing need for interreligious chaplains, this degree offers Muslim chaplaincy candidates an MDiv grounded in Islamic theology and religious texts while also bringing them into dialogue with students from other religious traditions including Christianity, Bahá’i, and Buddhism. United’s President, Lewis P. Zeidner, Ph.D., says of this partnership, “In today’s world, chaplains and other faith leaders have taken an increased role in providing leadership and an ethical compass for the broader community. Ensuring that training programs adequately prepare chaplains to more deeply understand those in their community who come from different faith traditions is an innovative and essential component of the role of seminary education. United is honored to do this work in partnership with TISA.”

To learn more, visit <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/united-and-tisa-partnership>

SOURCE: United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and The Islamic Seminary of America