

JustFAITH

JustFaith changes people... Those people change the world.



A Getting Started Letter for Christians and Muslims wanting to find each other for dialogue

We are very happy that you – Christians and Muslims - are eager to engage one another through the JustFaith Ministries JustMatters module, **In the Spirit of St Francis and the Sultan**. We also acknowledge that you may feel daunted by what you perceive to be the barriers that separate you from your counterparts.

For Christians, the main barrier will probably appear to be practical and social. “But I don’t *know* any Muslims,” Christians often claim. “I doubt there’s a single Muslim within a hundred miles of here! And even if there was, I wouldn’t know how to make contact with the Muslim community, particularly with Muslims interested in dialogue.”

For Muslims, the barrier is, most likely, different. As Muslims, you are certainly very aware of the presence of Christians. Yet, the threatened, minority status of Muslims may tend to make you reluctant to identify yourselves publicly.



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To begin, both Christians and Muslims who are ready and eager to undertake this JustFaith Ministries module should consult local interfaith groups for contact information about possible interfaith partners. Fortunately, an increasing number of interfaith groups have been springing up in recent years. Even if none have been formed in your area, though, as dialogue-minded Christians and Muslims, you should not give up the search. You can make inquiries among your own faith-leaders.

If no local connections to the other faith-group emerge, you can check with larger administrative bodies. For example, Catholics could consult their own diocesan pastoral or ecumenical office for the names and contact information of any who have expressed interest in Muslim-Christian dialogue in the area. For similar information, Muslims could contact the offices of groups like CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic relations), ISNA (Islamic Society of North America) and ASMA (American Society for Muslim Advancement).

In those situations where there has been no dialogue or contact, Muslims and Christians who do find each other and engage this JustFaith Ministries JustMatters module together could become the nucleus of their area's first visible, effective interfaith community. What a blessing of their endeavor that achievement would be!

Thank you for your efforts!

George Dardess and Marvin Mich

The JustFaith Ministries staff

