

## Central Mosque of Charleston - Open House

April 22, 2017

**Observer: Barbara Griffin**

### Meeting Summary

On Saturday, April 22nd the **Central Mosque of Charleston** hosted a community Open House. Approximately 80 Charleston area residents from a variety of faiths and occupations attended, including **Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg** and representatives from the City of Charleston Police Department.

The featured guest speaker was **Imam Eesa Wood** of North Carolina who spoke for approximately 1 3/4 hours and also answered many audience questions. Imam Wood provided a brief history of Islam and its basic tenets. He also briefly compared and contrasted aspects of Islam with respect to Judaism and Christianity.

The Question and Answer portion of his presentation consisted largely of audience history and theological questions.

Charleston Mayor Tecklenburg spoke briefly and commented regarding Imam Wood's story about a particular example of mercy shown by Mohammed. Mayor Tecklenburg stated he could not help but reflect on the transformative power of mercy as was demonstrated by the families of those killed at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Portions of Imam Eesaa Wood's Biography are listed below:

- Originally from the US, reverted to Islam in 2009; Married.
- Completed Umrah (2012) and Hajj (2014)
- Audio Engineer by Profession; Associate of Applied Science Recording Engineering from Guilford Technical Community College, North Carolina
- Arabic Language Studies under Ustath Maurice Hines (Zaytuna Institute) at Bennett College, NC, Elementary Arabic 1-2, Intermediate Arabic 1, Arabic Literature, 2013-14
- Qur'anic Arabic studies under Sheikh Yasser Ahmed (Sudan), Tajweed studies under Imam Kararero Abdullah (Burundi), and Fiqh Al-Malaki studies under Imam Abdulmuhaymin Zeba (Ivory Coast)
- Jumu'ah Khateeb, workshop presenter and motivational speaker for Al-Furqaan Foundation across the US in over 150 Masajid on the East Coast, Mid-west and Great Lakes region.
- Member of The North American Imams Federation, NAI.; Member of The Assembly of Muslim Jurists in America, AMJA.

- Voice Contributor to GuideUs Tv
- Former Elon University Muslim Coordinator (Imam), North Carolina (2013-14)
- Veteran educator of non-Muslims (Da'ee). Speaking with thousands of people from elementary school aged children to the elderly and everyone in between.
- Former Islamic Education Committee President (Da'wah), Islamic Center of Greensboro, North Carolina 2011-14.
- Volunteer contributor GuideUs Tv 2011-12 and Al-Huda Tv 2014.
- Al Huda Sunday School, North Carolina, Islamic Studies teacher, 2010-14