

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Constitution of the Association of the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center

106 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801

[Adopted 8 June 1997 CE / 2 Safar 1418 H]

We the Muslim community of East Central Illinois hereby establish this Constitution for the Association of the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center.

Article I. The Association

SECTION 1. The Association of the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, also known as CIMIC and hereinafter referred to as the Association, shall be a religious, not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Islamic Society of North America and operating in compliance with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code as currently enforced and subsequently amended.

SECTION 2. (a) The purpose of the Association shall be to advance the cause of Islam and serve Muslims in East Central Illinois.

(b) In furtherance of its purpose, the Association shall provide a focus for the coordination of local Muslim affairs in accordance with the norms of the Qur'an and the Sunnah, shall establish educational institutions for local Muslims of all ages, shall foster a positive understanding of Islam in American society, and shall promote a spirit of brotherhood, equality, and commitment to justice.

SECTION 3. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of religious, charitable, and educational activities consistent with its legal status. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall neither participate nor intervene, including by the publication or distribution of statements, in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. The Association shall not engage in any activity proscribed by the laws of the United States or the State of Illinois, nor in any activity incompatible with the Association's status as an affiliate of the Islamic Society of North America, any provision of this Constitution or of any regulations, policies, or practices adopted by the Association notwithstanding.

SECTION 4. In case of dissolution of the Association, any surplus Association assets after meeting all liabilities shall be distributed to the North American Islamic Trust, also known as NAIT, provided that at the time of the Association's dissolution NAIT retains its status as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. In the event that NAIT does not retain said status, first disposal of surplus Association assets shall be made to one or more organizations affiliated with the Islamic Society of North America that shall enjoy exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and then to one or more Muslim associations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational, or scientific purposes consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Any remaining assets shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of Champaign County exclusively for such Muslim associations as said Court shall determine.

Article II. Membership

SECTION 1. (a) Any Muslim of at least 18 years of age who resides within the Illinois counties of Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Logan, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, or Vermilion; who agrees to abide by this Constitution and any regulations, policies, or practices adopted by the Association pursuant thereto; and who is willing to advance the purpose of the Association through participation in its activities and regular provision of financial support shall, upon completion of such application procedures and payment of such membership dues as shall be established by the Association's Board of Directors, be granted regular membership in the Association.

(b) Persons granted regular membership in the Association shall remain regular members while they continue to maintain eligibility and current membership records, including payment of applicable membership dues.

(c) Any regular member may pay applicable membership dues in advance. No dues shall be required of other than regular members of the Association.

SECTION 2. (a) Regular members of the Association shall advance to voting membership six months after being granted regular membership and shall continue thereafter to be voting members of the Association while they remain regular members.

(b) All voting members of the Association shall together comprise its General Body, which shall, in a manner consistent with this Constitution, fill all vacancies in the Association's Board of Directors and shall assemble at least once each year to review Association affairs.

SECTION 3. (a) Any person of at least 12 years of age who is otherwise eligible for regular membership in the Association but fails to satisfy the age requirement shall, upon completion of such application procedures as shall be established by the Association's Board of Directors, be granted youth membership in the Association.

(b) Persons granted youth membership in the Association shall remain youth members while they continue to maintain eligibility and current membership records, and they shall enjoy such rights and privileges within the Association as shall be determined by its Board of Directors, consistent with this Constitution.

(c) Youth members shall not advance to regular membership without completion of the normal application procedures for regular membership and payment of applicable dues.

SECTION 4. (a) Honorary membership in the Association shall be granted to any person to whom the Association's Board of Directors determines that it is in the interest of the Association to extend such membership, provided that such person shall not otherwise be eligible for Association membership.

(b) Honorary members shall enjoy such rights and privileges within the Association as shall be determined by its Board of Directors, consistent with this Constitution.

(c) Honorary members shall not advance to regular membership without completion of the normal application procedures for regular membership and payment of applicable dues.

SECTION 5. No member shall be expelled from the Association or be otherwise deprived of the rights or privileges of membership without due process.

SECTION 6. Any person who is extended any right or privilege within the Association or who is granted access to any Association facility shall, as a condition of said right, privilege, or access, comply with all requirements of this Constitution and of any regulations, policies, or practices adopted by the Association pursuant thereto.

Article III. The Board of Directors

SECTION 1. (a) The Board of Directors shall be entrusted with the conduct of all Association affairs and shall be empowered, consistent with this Constitution, to select its officers and to establish such regulations and procedures, to establish such committees, to employ such personnel, and generally to engage in such activities as it shall deem appropriate to the discharge of that trust.

(b) The Board of Directors shall present at each regular meeting of the General Body a written report of all Association business that has been transacted since the previous regular meeting of the General Body.

SECTION 2. (a) The Board of Directors shall be composed of nine members, each of whom shall, in a manner consistent with this Constitution, be selected for a three-year term of service by the General Body from among the voting members of the Association.

(b) The members of the Board of Directors shall be the legal trustees of all Association assets.

(c) Except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution, no person shall serve on the Board of Directors who is not a voting member of the Association and who has not maintained voting membership for at least two years prior to becoming a member of the Board of Directors.

(d) Regular elections to the Board of Directors shall be held annually not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days prior to the first day of the Association's fiscal year. Three members of the Board of Directors shall be elected each year.

(e) Members of the Board of Directors shall commence their terms of service on the first day of the Association's fiscal year.

SECTION 3. (a) A vacancy in the Board of Directors shall exist whenever a Board of Directors member resigns, ceases to be a voting member of the Association, dies, is absent from three consecutive regular Board of Directors meetings without being excused, or is removed for public malfeasance by the General Body in a manner consistent with this Constitution.

(b) The Board of Directors shall promptly inform the General Body whenever any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board of Directors.

(c) If more than half of the Board of Directors positions are vacant, the General Body shall within 45 days fill all such vacancies for the remainder of their terms of service by special elections conducted in a manner consistent with this Constitution.

(d) If fewer than half of the Board of Directors positions are vacant, the General Body shall confirm to the remainder of the term of service of any vacant position an eligible member of the Association nominated by the Board of Directors in a manner consistent with this Constitution.

SECTION 4. (a) Whenever the Board of Directors shall recommend by a three-fourths majority that the General Body remove a member of the Board of Directors for public malfeasance, said member shall be temporarily suspended from all positions of service within the Association pending acceptance or rejection of the recommendation by the General Body. Said recommendation shall be deemed to have been accepted by the General Body unless rejected within 45 days by a three-fifths majority at a regular meeting of the General Body or a special meeting of the General Body called for that purpose.

(b) Upon acceptance by the General Body of a recommendation to remove a member of the Board of Directors for public malfeasance, the position of the member in question shall immediately be declared vacant to be filled in a manner consistent with this Constitution.

Article IV. Officers

SECTION 1. (a) Each year at the first regular Board of Directors meeting following the regular election, the Board of Directors shall appoint from among its own members for terms of not more than one year a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer

and such other officers as the Board of Directors shall determine to be necessary to the performance of its functions.

(b) The President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall together comprise an Executive Committee to which shall be delegated routine administration of Association business. A quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be the total membership of said committee.

(c) The Board of Directors shall determine the duties of its officers, except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution.

(d) The officers of the Board of Directors shall be the officers of the Association.

SECTION 2. (a) A vacancy in an office of the Board of Directors shall exist whenever a Board of Directors officer resigns from office, is removed from office by the Board of Directors, or ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors.

(b) All vacancies in the offices of the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors from among its remaining members.

SECTION 3. The President shall convene all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the General Body except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution and shall perform such duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors or as shall be incident to the office.

SECTION 4. The Vice President shall exercise in the temporary absence of the President all duties of the President and shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors or as shall be incident to the office.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall in the temporary absence of the President and Vice President convene all meetings of the Board of Directors, shall provide adequate notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the General Body, shall maintain written records of official business transacted at meetings of the Board of Directors and of the General Body and shall publish for the benefit of Association members such of those records as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, shall maintain and publish accurate membership records for the Association, shall conduct all official correspondence between the Association and outside bodies, shall maintain official copies of this Constitution, and shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors or as shall be incident to the office.

SECTION 6. The Treasurer shall supervise all Association financial transactions, shall prepare an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors prior to the start of each fiscal year, shall maintain monthly and annual written reports of all Association financial activity and shall present the same at all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and of the General Body, shall maintain official copies of any audits of Association financial activity and shall publish the same for the benefit of Association members and of such other persons as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors or as shall be incident to the office.

Article V. Committees

SECTION 1. (a) All committees mandated by this Constitution or otherwise determined to be beneficial to the conduct of Association affairs shall be established by and responsible to the Board of Directors.

(b) All committee coordinators shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from among the voting members of the Association.

SECTION 2. Committees established by the Board of Directors shall include one or more standing committees to oversee matters pertaining to worship, education, social justice, communications, outreach, and property management.

SECTION 3. Standing committees established by the Board of Directors shall include an Ibadat Committee responsible for coordination of public acts of worship and charitable distributions. Said committee shall be composed exclusively of voting members of the Association and shall have not fewer than three such members.

SECTION 4. Standing committees established by the Board of Directors shall further include an Elections Committee responsible for coordination of all elections, confirmations, and referenda conducted by the Association. Said committee shall be composed exclusively of voting members of the Association who are not members of the Board of Directors and shall have not fewer than three such members. Members of said committee shall not be deprived of their voting rights, but they shall neither be candidates in any election or confirmation nor participate in campaigning either in favor of or against any such candidate.

Article VI. Elections and Confirmations

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall set within the period mandated by this Constitution the date and closing time of any election.

SECTION 2. (a) Whenever vacancies in the Board of Directors are to be filled by election, the Election Committee shall receive nominations of eligible members of the Association and not less than 15 days prior to the date of said election shall transmit to the General Body official ballots together with the names and brief biographies of all candidates who have each accepted nomination by not less than ten voting members of the Association.

(b) The General Body shall by secret ballot cast yes or no votes for each of the candidates. The Election Committee shall collect all ballots cast prior to the closing time of the election and shall publicly tabulate the results of those ballots. Candidates shall be ranked according to the total number of yes votes received minus the total number of no votes received, and vacant positions shall be filled beginning with the highest-ranked candidate until the number of vacant positions on the Board of Directors or the

number of available candidates is exhausted, provided that no candidate not receiving a greater number of yes votes than no votes shall be elected to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. (a) Whenever a vacancy in the Board of Directors is to be filled by confirmation, the Election Committee shall transmit to the General Body official ballots together with the name and a brief biography of an eligible member of the Association who has been nominated by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors to fill the remainder of the term of service of the vacant position in question and has accepted such nomination.

(b) The General Body shall by secret ballot cast yes or no votes for the candidate. The Election Committee shall collect all ballots cast within 21 days and shall publicly tabulate the results of those ballots. The candidate shall be confirmed to the Board of Directors upon receipt of a greater number of yes votes than no votes.

(c) If the candidate is not confirmed, the Election Committee shall transmit to the General Body the name and brief biography of a different eligible member of the Association who has been nominated by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors and has accepted such nomination, until a suitable replacement is confirmed by the General Body.

Article VII. Meetings

SECTION 1. (a) Except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution, a quorum for any meeting of the General Body, of the Board of Directors, or of any other organ of the Association shall be defined as half the voting members of that organ. No official business shall be transacted at any meeting in the absence of a quorum.

(b) Voting at any meeting of an organ of this Association shall be restricted to those voting members of the organ who are actually present and shall be conducted in a manner consistent with this Constitution and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

SECTION 2. (a) Regular meetings of the General Body shall be convened at least once each year at a time to be determined by the Board of Directors.

(b) Special meetings of the General Body shall be convened within 30 days of receipt by the President of the Board of Directors of a request for such a meeting by two thirds of the members of the Board of Directors or one third of the voting members of the Association or as otherwise provided for by this Constitution. No business shall be transacted other than that specified in the call for the meeting.

(c) Adequate notice of any meeting of the General Body must be given at least ten days prior to the meeting. Adequate notice of such a meeting shall not be deemed to have been given unless said meeting shall have been publicly announced at Friday or Eid congregational prayers and notice of said meeting posted in a clearly visible place at the mosque and delivered in writing to each voting member of the Association.

SECTION 3. (a) Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened at least once each 90 days at a time to be determined by the Board of Directors. Adequate notice of any regular meeting of the Board of Directors must be given at least ten days prior to the meeting.

(b) Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened within ten days of receipt by the President of the Board of Directors of a request for such a meeting by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors or as otherwise provided for by this Constitution. Adequate notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors must be given at least five days prior to the meeting. No business shall be transacted other than that specified in the call for the meeting.

Article VIII. Finances

SECTION 1. The Association's fiscal year shall commence on the first day of January of each calendar year and conclude on the thirty-first day of December of the same calendar year.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall provide for an independent audit of Association financial activity by a certified public accountant not less than once every two years.

SECTION 3. All funds collected by the Association for a specific purpose or cause shall be expended exclusively for that purpose or cause unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds majority at a regular meeting of the General Body or a special meeting of the General Body called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. (a) All Association funds shall be deposited with reputable financial institutions in non-interest-bearing accounts.

(b) Financial accounts of the Association shall include an account with the North American Islamic Trust into which shall be deposited all funds for long-term maintenance or expansion of the physical plant of the mosque, funds for investment purposes, and such other funds as shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

(c) Disbursements of any Association funds deposited with the North American Islamic Trust shall require prior approval of the Board of Directors and joint authorization by the President and Treasurer.

(d) Disbursements of Association funds deposited with institutions other than the North American Islamic Trust shall require prior approval of the Board of Directors and authorization by the President, the Treasurer, or such other person or persons as shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. All real property owned by the Association shall be conveyed in trust to the North American Islamic Trust while that organization retains its exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Article IX. Amendments

SECTION 1. (a) Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a majority of the voting members of the Association for consideration in a referendum.

(b) Adequate notice of proposed amendments must be given at least 45 days prior to the referendum.

SECTION 2. (a) No amendment to this Constitution shall take effect without the approval of two thirds of all voting members of the Association.

(b) Every amendment to this Constitution approved in a manner consistent with this Constitution shall take immediate effect, unless otherwise provided for in the text of the amendment.

Article X. Ratification

SECTION 1. This Constitution shall upon ratification by the Association be immediately adopted and in force and shall supersede all previous constitutions of the Association.

SECTION 2. Any person who at the time of adoption of this Constitution is a voting member of the Association shall continue to be a voting member while said person remains a regular member of the Association.

SECTION 3. Any person who at the time of adoption of this Constitution is a legal trustee of Association assets shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors until the last day of the fiscal year in which the term of service to which said person shall have been elected or appointed shall expire. Any other person occupying an elected position of service within the Association shall continue to serve the Association in a capacity compatible with this Constitution as determined by the Board of Directors until the expiration of the term of service to which said person shall have been elected.