

## **Charter for the Committee on Religious Affairs**

This committee by its very nature must be the heart of the conscience of American Druzes and the head of the leadership preserving the uniqueness of the Druzes. In spiritual matters it must maintain a considerable measure of independence including financial independence. This is a “service oriented” committee that must develop the long-range corporate welfare of the spiritual congregation as well as provide pastoral services to individual Druzes. Responsibility for religious education falls to this committee as well as religious scholarship, religious history and research, theology, and ethical pronouncements. Contributions and trusts dedicated to “religious affairs” will be placed in the areas of greatest need as selected by the committee. Donations for specific purposes may be accepted or rejected by the committee depending on how favorable they are to the mission and objectives of the committee. Committee members must be mentally and spiritually prepared to be at odds with the popular weal, realizing that innovation, leadership, and progress in a field as abstract as spiritual growth and welfare cannot be manipulated by internal politics and current vogues if great spiritual truths are to be identified, espoused, and incorporated into the repertoire of the believer.

The committee is empowered to undertake the following:

- 1) Administration of an obligatory religious levy (zakat) of 2.5% of annual income on every “true” believer so pledging.
- 2) Identify and fund “research” in the field of religion.
- 3) Identify qualified American (born, reared, and schooled in the U.S.A.) persons to enter the field of religious education, music, and ministry. Provide scholarships for such qualified individuals.

- 4) Sponsor publication of books and articles on religious subjects including religious history.
- 5) Act in an editorial capacity on all publications used to “school” the Druze corporate congregation on matters of faith and spiritual growth.
- 6) Comment on the ethics of acts by individual or group of members.
- 7) Place God’s purposes as dictated by the conscience of committee members ahead of the goals of the society or of individual members.
- 8) Recommend to the Board, members of un-impeachable moral character to serve on the committee.

The committee is responsible for:

- 1) Clearly stating its annual expenditures and sources of funds (made to the Board and filed with the National Treasurer).
- 2) Abiding by the requirements of tax law as it affects the, A.D.S. corporate legal status.
- 3) Investigating the background of committee members.
- 4) Programming of all national religious activity.
- 5) Providing religious articles and editing of religious articles to the Newsletter.
- 6) Inter-faith activity with organizations representing the faiths of Islam, Christianity, Bahai, and Judaism in support of a pluralistic society in America.
- 7) Espousing religious freedom.
- 8) Gaining Board support and endorsement of long range programs and current services provided members of the Society and community congregations.
- 9) Locating, identifying, and selecting qualified young Americans for scholarship

awards.

- 10) Obtaining services as required to protect the interest of donors, scholarship recipients, and other members of the A.D.S.

### **Committee On Religious Affairs**

**Chairman:** Samah HeLal