



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*From neighborhood hate crimes to legislative discrimination, we see negativity directed against Muslims. But that is not who we are in Minnesota. We are a welcoming, caring, respectful community. As a sign of community solidarity, you are invited to.....*

**Extend a sign of goodwill by placing a sign on your lawn reading:**



## **Helpful hints to make your Blessed Ramadan participation successful!**

### **MAKE THE BLESSED RAMADAN PROJECT A FOCUS IN YOUR PLACE OF CONGREGATION**

- Let your congregation know Ramadan begins at sunset on Tuesday, May 15, and lasts until Thursday, June 14.
- Decide as a congregation to participate in the Blessed Ramadan project, or make the project known and let members of the congregation take the lead, whether forming groups or acting as individuals.
- Request or print your own supply of lawn signs locally. Find the artwork for the signs at [BlessedRamadan.org](http://BlessedRamadan.org); the files can be downloaded and sent to a local printer near you.
- On May 15, place a sign(s) in the lawn of your congregation and invite congregation members to request signs from MCC or, if you are providing a supply, to take signs home for their own yards.
- Increase participation by enlisting the help of your peace and justice committee, refugee support committee, and congregation members who are active in organizations seeking peace and respect for diversity in your community.

### **CREATE THE BUZZ IN ADVANCE OF MAY 15**

- Put an announcement on your website. Post about Blessed Ramadan on Facebook. And don't forget to tell your members to like your post on Facebook!
- Include the project in any congregational emails.



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### **Sample language:**

From neighborhood hate crimes to legislative discrimination, we see negativity directed against Muslims. We have an opportunity and responsibility to demonstrate our care for Muslim Minnesotans. We have joined with other congregations and the Minnesota Council of Churches to support the #BlessedRamadan Project, which serves to wish a Blessed Ramadan to our Muslim neighbors with lawn signs. We are one of the churches leading the way, and we encourage you to display a lawn sign in your own yard during the month of Ramadan, between May 15 and June 14, as an offer of goodwill to the Muslim community. Signs will be available for you to take home on {date}. *(You can also offer details regarding what your place of worship will do, or has already done, in addition to the placement of the signs.)*

### ○ **Sample longer language:**

From neighborhood hate crimes to legislative discrimination, we see negativity directed against Muslims. That is not who we are in Minnesota. When we are our best selves, we are a welcoming, caring, respectful community.

We are looking for a place to make a difference. We have joined with other congregations and the Minnesota Council of Churches to support the #BlessedRamadan Project, which serves to wish a Blessed Ramadan to our Muslim neighbors with lawn signs. The signs are a public gesture, a sign of goodwill, and an opposition to bigotry and hatefulness.

Ramadan is the month of the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. The annual observance is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is performed to learn compassion, self-restraint, and generosity. In 2018, it is May 15 through June 14.

We will have the signs ready for you to take home on {date}. *(You can also offer details regarding what your place of worship will do, or has already done, in addition to the placement of the signs.)*

## **WORSHIP BULLETINS AND VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### • **Sample language:**

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Muslim neighbors with lawn signs. In fact, we are one of the congregations leading the way! We encourage you to put a lawn sign in your yard between May 15 and June 14 to wish a Blessed Ramadan to your Muslim neighbors. We have the signs ready for you to take home and put in your yard {date}.

### RESPONSES TO THOSE ASKING, WHY A LAWN SIGN AND WHY NOW?

- From neighborhood hate crimes to legislative discrimination, we see negativity and anti-Islamophobia directed against Muslims. We refuse to allow hatred and fear to overcome our kindness and hospitality. That is not who we are in Minnesota. When we are our best selves, we are a welcoming, caring, respectful community.
- I am/we are looking for a place to make a difference. This lawn sign is a public gesture, a sign of goodwill, and an opportunity to practice hospitality and welcome to my Muslim neighbors. I am/we are standing in opposition to bigotry and hatefulness.
- Ramadan offers a special opportunity for us to act now. Ramadan is the month of the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. The annual observance is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is performed to learn compassion, self-restraint, and generosity.
  - In addition, if you or congregation have participated in other programs focused on respect and understanding, such as MCC's [Taking Heart Ramadan Iftar dinners](#), you could relate that information.

### WE NEED LAWN SIGNS. WHERE CAN WE GET THEM?

- **Order or print your own lawn signs locally:** Download our design [here](#) and send it to a local printer near you.
- **Order signs directly from Impact Printing in St. Paul, Minnesota:** The 18- x 24-inch signs are \$8 each, including the accompanying metal stands, and the buyer can either pick up the signs directly or pay for shipping. Call Impact Printing at (651) 489-0803, or visit their [website](#).
- **Fill out our [online form](#) to request signs and donate to the Minnesota Council of Churches today!** We suggest a donation of \$20 per sign, in addition to any associated shipping costs. Signs are available for pick-up or delivery. (Note: Your donation covers the cost of the sign and additional Blessed Ramadan program costs. Anything more will support our Taking Heart program, a series of Iftar meals designed to build interfaith community. Read more [here](#).)

### ORGANIZE AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!

- Imagine people all over the state participating, with signs popping up all over the landscape! Do what you can as quickly as you can. For those in apartments and condos, consider a sign in your window or on your door (please check first to ensure this is allowed).

**Help spread the word of respect and welcome for our Muslim neighbors during Ramadan!**