



## **Safeguarding Christians: Edicts of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Caliph Umar (Muslim-Christian Interaction in Early Islamic History)**

Professor Bowman will be exploring some of the social and political interactions between Christians and Muslims in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE.

This talk will discuss Muslim attitudes toward Christian churches, shrines and monastic communities in that pivotal first century of contact. The religious milieu of the Near East at the rise of Islam was complex and diverse, with many different doctrinal positions within Christianity alone. Judging from the agreements and pacts between Christians and Muslims throughout this period, the entry of Islam was characterized by a respect for this great variety of groups as well as their holy places. Contrary to the view that Christianity and Islam are inherently adversarial, this magnanimous inter-confessional relationship in early Islamic history set a profound tone for religious tolerance in the early middle ages.

Dr. Bowman will be presenting four citations of historic significance. The first citation is the Pledge of Najran given by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the Christian community of Najran (c.626). The second is the Manifesto by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) regarding the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai (c.631) which bears the handprint of the Prophet as his seal. The third citation is the Proclamation of Jerusalem by Caliph 'Umar (c.638), and the fourth is a letter from Christian Patriarch Ishoyabb III (c.649) applauding the respectful and supportive attitude of Muslims toward Christians.

*Presented by **The Salaam Network**, a Louisville based interfaith group of educators, peacemakers, and supporters from a wide variety of backgrounds. We believe it is critical to disseminate accurate information about Islam to promote peace and understanding in our beloved community.*



### **THE SALAAM NETWORK**

*Striving to make our Beloved  
Community of Louisville Whole*

**Saturday**

**April 15**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**River Road Mosque  
4007 River Road  
Louisville**

**Free, All Invited,  
Family Friendly.  
Free Parking**

**Presented by  
Dr. Bradley Bowman,  
Professor of History,  
Middle East and  
Islamic Studies at  
the University of  
Louisville. He  
received his Ph.D.  
from University of  
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Islamic history.**

