



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
Boston, Massachusetts



Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{ras}.

National Sadr Lajna delivers Sunday Sermon at Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton, Massachusetts

By the Grace of Allah on Sunday March 10th, 2013, the National President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA (Sadr Lajna) Saliha Malik delivered a moving address on the "Role of Women in Islam" during the Sunday service at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton, Massachusetts. The service commenced with the ringing of the Paul Revere Bell at 10:20AM, after which Reverend Beverly Boke, the resident Pastor, warmly welcomed the guests of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. She said "I want to offer a very warm welcome to our neighbors and friends who have joined us today from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community." Reverend Boke spoke about her deep respect of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community having attended an interfaith Iftari dinner during the previous Ramadan in which she learned about the Community's service to Humanity through its independent charitable organization Humanity First and its national blood drive campaign "Muslims for Life." She told her fellow Unitarian Universalists that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community lives by the motto "Love For All – Hatred None" and said that as fellow passengers on this journey of life all people regardless of race, religion or nationality can greatly learn from this motto as we strive to live in communion with one another.

After a very up beat hymn quite fittingly entitled "Alhamdulillah" sang by the Unitarian Universalist Choir, Reverend Beverly Boke invited National Sadr Lajna as the guest speaker to deliver the Sunday sermon on the "Role of Women in Islam." National Sadr Lajna began with the Arabic recitation of the Holy Quran Surah Al-Baqarah verse 154 followed by the English translation, and began her discourse by first introducing the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as the community of Muslims who believe in Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian^{as} - the Messiah and Mahdi.



She explained that in Arabia at the time of the advent of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{SAW} drinking and gambling were a way of life, and women were treated as property, deprived of any rights or status in society. However it was the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{SAW} as the messenger of God, who liberated women and instituted the rights of women to inherit property, own land and pursue an education, all of which women had been deprived of for centuries, and which have only been established recently in the West in the 19 hundreds.

Therefore the role of women in the society was important as the dignity, place and honor of women was restored, without the loss of modesty. Sadr Lajna explained the true concept of Purdah, which is not a burden but in fact a liberation for women, and a source of true peace for those Muslim women who adhere to this Quranic injunction. She explained that the observance of

Purdah instills a sense of safety, self respect, integrity and inner strength in a Muslim woman and the effect of restraint on the adventurous nature of mankind results in true liberation of the self.



After the sermon, Reverend Beverly Boke thanked National Sadr Lajna for the all encompassing and in-depth sermon on the “Role of Women in Islam”. After the service everyone gathered in the parlor for a Sunday brunch. As a token of friendship and commitment to the on-going dialogue between the two communities, Lajna Ima’illah Boston gifted 20 copies of the book “Life of Muhammad” to Reverend Boke for distribution at the church’s annual book fair. The day’s events ended on a high note with one to one discussions between Lajna members and the members of the Unitarian Universalist church over Sunday brunch, during which topics as varied as Purdah, Islam’s reverence of all the Prophets of God, Islam’s response to contemporary issues and the importance of interfaith dialogue were discussed.

May Allah enable Lajna Ima’illah Boston to continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding with the members of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church and their surrounding neighbors, and may the hearts and minds of the people be enlightened to the beauty and truth of Ahmadiyyat, Ameen.