



# SHAW UNIVERSITY Divinity School

February 20, 2023

Edward Ahmed Mitchell  
National Deputy Director  
Council of American-Islamic Relations  
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Greetings and thank you for reaching out to Shaw University. We're responding to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated February 1, 2023, regarding the student mosque located within the International Studies Center on the campus of Shaw University. This letter also will address and clarify some general misinformation regarding access to the mosque for student worshipers and its availability and accessibility to members of the Shaw campus community.

As previously stated in response to numerous inquiries, the mosque has been and continues to be open and available to currently enrolled Shaw University students who coordinate access through the university's Office of the Chaplain. Neither the mosque nor the campus chapel is generally open to the public for standard church meetings, prayer vigils, or worship services; all events are and will continue to be confirmed through scheduled programming that is managed by the Chaplain's Office.

Additionally, as a matter of practice for students of varying faiths and beliefs, Shaw University offers a list of external resources and facilities in the local community where students, faculty, or staff members may seek support or houses of worship to pray and/or practice their faith and religious obligations. Those resources are readily available to the campus community and are also attached for your convenience. To that end, Shaw University is also establishing an Interfaith Council in the Spring 2023 semester. This Council will appoint an Interfaith Adviser who will be available to support students with matters related to faith and equality, along with assisting students in planning Interfaith engagements and events.

We genuinely appreciate your concern for the Muslim students who are currently attending Shaw University and assure you that the necessary resources are available for them to practice their faith on campus and in the community. As it stands, Shaw University will continue to oversee the scheduling of activities for all campus facilities for enrolled students with safety, security, and the well-being of our students as the foremost priority.

Respectfully,

Rev. Lamont J. Johnson, Sr., PhD  
Shaw University Chaplain

CC: Nigel Edwards