



ACHE Speaker to discuss Islam at meeting

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Holland, MI — Dustin Byrd of Kalamazoo, a convert to Islam, will speak to the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) on “Islam as a Dynamic Social Phenomenon” on Friday, June 11. The meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive.

Byrd said he will “focus on the current antagonism that religion finds itself in with secular modernity, and Islam’s position in that. This context helps clarify some of the problems that contemporary Islam has with the West.” He also will discuss misconceptions about Islam, and how clearing up those misconceptions can help open a space for dialogue among religious and secular citizens.

Byrd holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in comparative religion and history from Western Michigan University and is studying philosophy at Michigan State University.

Marvin Younger, ACEH president, said that tickets for the Juneteenth celebration dinner on June 18 in Holland will be available for purchase at the meeting. The cost is \$12.

ACEH was founded in 1999 as a grass-roots organization fostering appreciation for diversity and cross-cultural awareness, equal opportunity, and justice. For more information, call (616) 392-5086 or go to the website, www.harmonyalliance.org.

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