

Byrd returning to continue dialogue

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Holland — Dustin Byrd (Isma'il Abdallah) of Kalamazoo, a convert to Islam who is fluent in Arabic, will speak to the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) on "Islam and Society: Freedom within the Bounds of Islam," on Sept. 9. The meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive. Byrd spoke at the ACEH general meeting in June 2010 and was invited to return to continue a dialogue on beliefs, issues and misconceptions about Islam. He holds degrees in comparative religion, has taught at Olivet College, and recently published the book "Ayatollah Khomeini and the Anatomy of the Islamic Revolution in Iran: Towards a Theory of Prophetic Charisma." In the spring of 2011, he traveled to Europe to study the Holocaust. Byrd is a native of South Haven. For more information about the meeting or ACEH, call president Marvin Younger at (616) 392-5086 or go to the website harmonyalliance.org.

The alliance was founded in Holland in 1999 to work for justice, equal opportunity, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity in the community.

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