

**NAAIMS – 4<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Lecture: “Islam and Religious Diversity”**

**Cosponsored By: United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN**

**Lecturer: Munjed M. Murad**

**ZOOM Platform: Monday, December 22, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST**

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### **ABSTRACT: Islam and Religious Diversity**

The Islamic tradition is home to a rich framework for countenancing and even appreciating religious diversity, that is, in its attitude to diversity within its own *ummah* (religious community) and diversity between religious communities in general. Contrary to reformist movements that espouse exclusivist uniformities, the largely pluralistic attitude of traditional Islam is rooted ultimately in Islamic scripture and metaphysics and applied historically in many domains of life. Traditional Islam teaches and protects religious diversity, not despite but by virtue of traditional Islamic orthodoxy.

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### **LECTURER:**

Munjed M. Murad [mmurad@unitedseminary.edu] is assistant professor of World Religions and Intercultural Studies at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN. His research interests include Islam, Christianity, mysticism, comparative religion, and the natural environment. He holds a Master of Environmental Management (MEM) degree from Yale School of the Environment, where he studied religion and ecology. For his Doctorate of Theology from Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, he defended a dissertation entitled “*A Tale of Two Trees: Unveiling the Sacred Life of Nature in Islamic and Christian Traditions.*”