

Imam Dr. Shamsan Al-Jabi

Khateeb, Imam, and Educational Programs Director

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Professional Summary:

Imam Dr. Shamsan Al-Jabi is the current Imam and Religious & Educational Director at the Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (MCCGP), Faculty Member at the AIM Dawah Academy & Seminary under Authentic Ilm Mission (AIM), and Lecturer at the MinSU Platform for Education and Development at the Islamic University of Minnesota. He is a Yemeni-American Imam and classically trained Islamic scholar with deep specialization in both Qur'anic sciences and traditional Islamic studies. He holds Ijazaat in six canonical Qur'anic recitations and multiple advanced degrees across diverse disciplines. Ranked second nationwide in the international scientific high-school track, he earned a prestigious U.S. medical-school scholarship for academic excellence. His work uniquely bridges sacred scholarship and modern academia through visionary leadership, teaching, research, and community service. He has served the Muslim community as an Imam and religious director for over a decade across multiple states including Michigan, Indiana, California, and currently Pennsylvania.

Personal Life:

Imam Dr. Shamsan is not only a religious and academic leader but also a dedicated **father**, **husband**, and **son** who values family as a cornerstone of faith and service.

Early life and studies

Shaykh Shamsan is a Yemeni American who hails from the ancient city of San'aa.

The journey of memorizing the Quran:

- Imam Dr. Shamsan hails from the ancient city of San'aa, Yemen. He began memorizing the Qur'an at an early age in a family of nine Huffadh (Memorizers), including his mother, who was the dynamic person behind all the Hafizs in the household.
 - He recited under certified Qurra' in Yemen and Egypt and received Ijazaat in many canonical recitations.
 - On top of the initial household Quran environment, he attended different circles, institutions and intensive Quran camps in different cities and participated in many different intensive Quran programs via many notable Quranic institutions in Yemen.
 - He recited with certified reciters (Qu'rra) in Yemen and Egypt.
 - He received certificates (Ijazaat) in various modes of recitations (Qira'at), namely:
 - Hafs 'an 'Asim حفص عن عاصم
 - Shu'bah 'an 'Asim شعبة عن عاصم
 - Successfully completed a specialized certification in “Usool Riwayat Warsh (ورش عن نافع) according to Al-Shatibiyyah) with practical application” from the American Open University, under the supervision of the Department of Training and Development, achieving a perfect score and ranking first in his class – January 2026.mHe has undertaken extensive studies in multiple Qira'at and is currently advancing his recitation by pursuing higher-level Ijazah certifications in various narrations, including Qaloun and Abu Ja'far.
 - **Additional Qur'anic Certification:**
 - Certified in Warsh 'an Nafi' (Shatibiyyah pathway) with full practical application — American Open University (January,15, 2026), achieving a perfect score (60/60)
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Islamic Studies

- Imam Shamsan started his Islamic studies journey alongside his Quran journey by attending intensive educational gatherings of Islamic learning, spending eleven years in the company of several renowned senior Islamic scholars, such as:
 - **Shaykh Muhammad ibn Isma'il al-'Amrani** who died in 2021, one of the World-wide senior renowned Yemeni scholars, who gave Ijazaat to Shaykh Muhammad al-Hassan Walid al-Dido al-Shanqiti).
 - **Imam Muqbil bin Hadi al-Wadi'i**, who was the founder of the Madrasa in Dammaj which was known as a centre for Hadith Intensive scholarly Programs and its multi-national student population. Shaykh Shamsan had the honor of attending several of Imam Muqbil's lessons and lectures before his passing—he was only 13 years old when the Shaykh died. Afterward, he continued his pursuit of knowledge under the tutelage of many of Imam Muqbil's prominent students, including **Shaykh Abu al-Hasan al-Ma'rabi, Shaykh Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Imam, Shaykh Yahya al-Ra'zahi, Shaykh Muhammad al-Sawmali, Shaykh Abdulaziz al-Bar'ei**, and others. He attended the Sana'a branch of the Dammaj school, which was supervised by several of Imam Muqbil's students.
- During this period, Shaykh Shamsan studied and devoted many years to the structured study of the Islamic sciences under qualified scholars, covering the principal disciplines of Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah. His studies included both foundational and advanced texts across the sciences of creed, hadith, jurisprudence, Qur'anic studies, Arabic language, and related fields. Among the disciplines studied are:
 1. **Hadith Sciences ('Ulum al-Hadith)**
 - *Sahih al-Bukhari* — Imam al-Bukhari
 - *Sahih Muslim* — Imam Muslim
 2. **Mustalah al-Hadith (Hadith Methodology)**
 - *Nukhbat al-Fikar* — Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani
 - *Tadrib al-Rawi* — Imam al-Suyuti
 3. **Al-Jarh wa al-Ta'dil (Narrator Criticism & Hadith Evaluation)**
 - *Mizan al-I'tidal* — Imam al-Dhahabi
 - *Al-Kamil fi Du'afa' al-Rijal* — Ibn 'Adi
 4. **Islamic History & Biographical Works (Tarikh)**
 - *Al-Tarikh al-Kabir* — Imam al-Bukhari
 - *Al-Tarikh al-Awsat* — Imam al-Bukhari
 - *Al-Tarikh al-Saghir* — Imam al-Bukhari
 - *Tarikh Dimashq* — Ibn 'Asakir

5. **General Islamic History**
 - *Tarikh al-Tabari* — Imam al-Tabari
 - *Al-Bidayah wa al-Nihayah* — Ibn Kathir
6. **Tafsir (Qur’anic Exegesis)**
 - *Tafsir Ibn Kathir* — Imam Ibn Kathir
 - *Jami‘ al-Bayan fi Tafsir al-Qur’an* — Imam al-Tabari
7. **Usul al-Tafsir**
 - *Muqaddimah fi Usul al-Tafsir* — Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah
 - *Al-Itqan fi ‘Ulum al-Qur’an* — Imam al-Suyuti
8. **Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence)**
 - *Zad al-Mustaqni‘* — al-Hajjawi
 - *Bidayat al-Mujtahid* — Ibn Rushd
9. **Usul al-Fiqh (Principles of Jurisprudence)**
 - *Al-Risalah* — Imam al-Shafi‘i
 - *Al-Muwafaqat* — Imam al-Shatibi
10. **‘Aqidah (Islamic Creed)**
 - *Al-‘Aqidah al-Tahawiyyah* — Imam al-Tahawi
 - *Kitab al-Tawhid* — Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab
 - *Minhaj al-Sunnah al-Nabawiyyah* — Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah
11. **Refutations, Theology & Defense of Sunni Orthodoxy**
 - *Dar’ Ta‘arud al-‘Aql wa al-Naql* — Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah
 - *Al-Sawa‘iq al-Mursalah* — Ibn al-Qayyim
12. **Tazkiyah & Suluk (Spiritual Purification and Rectification)**
 - *Madarij al-Salikin* — Ibn al-Qayyim
 - *Al-Da’ wa al-Dawa’* — Ibn al-Qayyim
13. **Additional Works in Tazkiyah & Iman**
 - *Al-Fawa’id* — Ibn al-Qayyim
 - *Mukhtasar Minhaj al-Qasidin* — Ibn Qudamah al-Maqdisi
14. **Seerah (Prophetic Biography)**
 - *Sirat Ibn Hisham* — Ibn Hisham
 - *Ar-Raheeq al-Makhtum* — Safi al-Rahman al-Mubarakpuri
15. **Arabic Language & Literature**
 - *Alfiyyah Ibn Malik* — Ibn Malik
 - *Lisan al-‘Arab* — Ibn Manzur

16. **Nahw (Arabic Grammar)**

- *Qatr al-Nada* — Ibn Hisham al-Ansari
- *Sharh Ibn ‘Aqil ‘ala Alfyyah Ibn Malik* — Ibn ‘Aqil

17. **Balaghah (Arabic Rhetoric)**

- *Al-Balaghah al-Wadihah* — ‘Ali al-Jarim & Mustafa Amin
- *Jawahir al-Balaghah* — Ahmad al-Hashimi

18. **Qira’at (Canonical Qur’anic Recitations)**

- *Al-Nashr fi al-Qira’at al-‘Ashr* — Ibn al-Jazari
- *Al-Taysir fi al-Qira’at al-Sab‘* — Abu ‘Amr al-Dani

19. **Tajwid (Qur’anic Pronunciation & Recitation)**

- *Tuhfat al-Atfal* — Sulayman al-Jamzuri
- *Al-Jazariyyah* — Ibn al-Jazari

20. **Memorization & Study of Foundational Texts (Mutun)**

- *Al-Arba‘in al-Nawawiyyah* — Imam al-Nawawi
- *Bulugh al-Maram* — Ibn Hajar al-‘Asqalani
- He also attended different systematic Islamic studies programs and was awarded many certifications.

Secular Education and Achievements:

- He did a three-year diploma program in **التنمية البشرية (Human Development)** and is a certified Social Counselor (**مصلح إجتماعي وأسري**).
 - He later completed his **Masters in Islamic theology (Thoughts and Sects)**.
 - In addition, he received an equivalency certification for another **Master's degree in Poetic Rhetoric and Literary Criticism** in 2019.
 - He then earned his **Ph.D. in 2025**, in the beginning of the month of **Ramadan**, with a dissertation entitled: "**The Impact of Political Pressure on Hadith Narrations in the First Six Centuries**"
 - This Ph.D. is a unique interdisciplinary study that brings together the sciences of **Hadith, Islamic history, and political science**. It explores the intersection of seemingly distinct disciplines to uncover how political pressures shaped hadith transmission and narration, demonstrating a deep and integrative approach to understanding early Islamic scholarship.
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Due to his strong work ethic:

- Shaykh Shamsan excelled in secular studies and was a top performer nationwide in Yemen and the Middle East in high-school education and graduated with honor as number 2 top student among 100k students in the scientific section.
 - Due to his excellence in his international high school diploma, he was thus a recipient of a **medical-school scholarship award to study in the U.S.**
 - He acquired his **Bachelors in Biology** at the California State University, Bakersfield.
 - He also completed a **minor in Mathematics**, in addition to a **minor in Organic Chemistry**.
 - He worked as a **tutor at Henry Ford Community College** as well as at **California State University** during his undergraduate studies.
 - And a **minor in organic chemistry** from the same school, while working as an Imam in different Islamic centers throughout his secular educational journey.
 - Shaykh Shamsan is currently enrolled in **another Ph.D programs** with dissertation:
 - **"Fundamentals of Secret Intelligence in the Islamic History"**
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Teaching and Academic Experience:

- Faculty Member – Authentic Ilm Mission (AIM)
2025 – Present
- Lecturer – MinSU Platform for Education and Development
Islamic University of Minnesota, 2025 – Present
- Delivering lectures and educational content online,
by requests and bookings.

Current Role and Contributions at MCCGP

Imam Dr. Shamsan joined the **Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (MCCGP)** in **2021**. Since his arrival, he has been a transformative force in the community, bringing a vision that reshaped the spiritual, educational, and social fabric of the center. His dynamic leadership and dedication introduced **dozens of groundbreaking initiatives and programs** that had never been seen before in the region. These initiatives have revitalized the community and laid down a sustainable foundation for future generations.

Current Roles and Responsibilities at MCCGP (since 2021):

- Leading the Jahr daily congregational prayers (Fajr, Maghrib, Isha).
- Delivering the Friday khutbahs and Eid sermons.
- Leading the full Ramadan Taraweeh prayers.
- Offering marital and parental counseling.
- Conducting funeral prayers and overseeing Janazah services.
- Managing the Adhan system, including workshops and annual competitions.
- Organizing and supervising Sunday school teacher development programs.

Educational and Community Programs Initiated by Dr.Shamsan:

1. Tajweed and Quran Recitation programs for children.
2. Hifz memorization program.
3. Sisters' and brothers' Quran practice circles.
4. Youth mentorship and Young Scholars program.
5. Annual and Ramadan Quran competitions.
6. Movie and family activity nights.
7. Public speaking and Adhan workshops.

Through these programs, Shaykh Shamsan has not only uplifted the spiritual well-being of the community but also fostered an inclusive and vibrant Islamic environment. His efforts continue to inspire and shape a growing, united Muslim presence in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Artistic and Religious Contributions

Imam Shamsan Al-Jabi is not only a distinguished religious leader, but also a passionate artist, poet, and Islamic vocalist with a deep commitment to preserving and promoting classical Arabic and Islamic arts.

Poetic Accomplishments:

- A devoted poet, Imam Shamsan is a recognized member of the *Poetic Elite* in Classical Arabic.
- He holds a certification of **Master in Poetic and Rhetorical Criticism**.
- He is currently finalizing the publication of his own **ديوان شعري (Poetic Collection)**, which is under review and printing.

Mastery of Vocal Arts (Maqamat):

- He studied the intricate art of **Maqamat** (vocal modalities).
- Participated in several prestigious vocal training courses and competitions, including the acclaimed **Al-Mizmar Al-Thahabi (The Golden Flute)**.

Islamic Nasheed and Performance:

- A talented and experienced **Munshid** (Islamic singer).
- Performs traditional Arabic religious odes (qasā'id/na'at).
- Has led numerous festivals and religious celebrations across the United States and abroad.
- Proudly represented Yemen in various **Nasheed competitions**.

Community Media Engagement:

- Elected in **2022** as the host of the **Munshid Al-Sharijah Community**, where he leads interviews and dialogue sessions with prominent Munshids and vocalists, fostering artistic collaboration and Islamic cultural awareness.

Qur'anic Recitation Recognition:

- Honored by the **Yemeni Qur'an Committee** with the title of **Mushaf Murattal Qāri'**, recognizing his excellence in tajwīd and Qur'anic recitation.
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Past Experience as a Religious Leader

Prior to joining MCCGP, Imam Shamsan served numerous vibrant communities across the United States:

- Served for over **8 years** as:
 - **Imām Rātīb**
 - **Weekend School Principal**
 - **Islamic Studies Teacher**

Including at:

- **The Islamic Center of Dearborn, Michigan**
- **Farmington Hills Masjid, Indiana**
- **Al-Huda Foundation, Fishers, Indiana**
- Worked for **5 years** as a **Marriage Counselor** and **Human Development Adviser**, supported by his diploma in Human Development Sciences.
- Served as **Youth Director** for **4 years**, complementing his role as Imam, developing mentorship programs for young Muslims.
- Contributed significantly to several respected Islamic humanitarian organizations including:
 - **Mercy USA**
 - **IMANA**
 - **Pure Hands**
 - **Islamic Relief USA**

Memberships and Affiliations

- Member of the **Yemeni Quran International Committee**
 - Active member of the **Arab Poetry Committee**, with numerous published poems and recognition as one of the youngest poets in the field
 - Certified **Black Belt Martial Arts Coach** by:
 - **World Taekwondo Federation (South Korea)**
 - **American Taekwondo Federation**
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Other Notable Achievements

- Shaykh Shamsan holds a **Black Belt in Taekwondo** from South Korea, Yemen, and USA.
- He represented California in many Taekwondo tournaments and won several international Taekwondo awards.
- He is a **world certified Taekwondo coach** and a member in the **World Taekwondo Federation**, in South Korea.