

VISIT TO THE SACRED PLACE

The department of Islamic Studies, Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab Pakistan planned to visit a worship place under celebrations of world interfaith harmony week. Therefore, a delegation of about 70 students led by Dr. Hafiz Jamshed Akhtar and Dr. Rashida Qazi from Department of Islamic Studies, Ghazi University paid a visit to St. Anthony United Church, near Central Jail Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab, Pakistan on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 10:30 AM. Mr. Salim Ilyas and Pastor Pervez Qamar gave a warm welcome. Then everyone was taken inside the church. There, Mr. Saleem Ilyas thanked the Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Arshad Munir Leghari and the Vice Chancellor of Ghazi University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, for taking special interest in organizing such type of program to promote interfaith harmony. He then welcomed the teachers and students.

Later, Pastor Pervez Qamar introduced the Gospel comprehensively and recited some verses from the Gospel as well as introduced worship and other rituals in Christianity. Pastor Pervez Qamar described the visit as a great effort to promote interfaith harmony and thanked Ghazi University for bringing the People of the divine religions closer to each other.

After Pastor Pervez Qamar, Dr. Hafiz Jamshed Akhtar delivered a brief sermon in the church and thanked the hosts on behalf of the Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, teachers and students for their warm welcome. Moreover, he highlighted the history of Muslim relations with Christianity and the purpose of the visit, explaining the importance of inter-religious peace and order and the promotion of unity and harmony. Leaders from both communities agreed on the importance of coexistence and said that Peace is a fundamental component of community development, personal growth, and survival of our planet. At the heart of every faith community, and culture, lies a need to advance peaceful co-existence to enhance productive, meaningful lives and sustainable societies. They agreed that Coexistence is the pillar that sustains many aspects of human life. As highly sociable creatures, achieving a peaceful, effective, and harmonious coexistence not only helps to guarantee our survival as a group, but also helps to promote well-being and progress.