



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

Manitoba Islamic Association

Memorandum 0003

Subject: Timing of Jumu'ah (Friday) prayer
From: Local Fiqh Committee, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Date: May 2014

Jumu'ah prayer is an obligation (*fard*) upon every sane, adult and non-traveling Muslim. Allah says in the Qur'an: "*O you who believe, when the call for the salah of Jumu'ah is proclaimed, hasten unto the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and trading). That is best for you if you but knew.*"¹

This is also reaffirmed by various authentically reported sayings of the messenger of Allah peace be upon him². Accordingly, there is a clear consensus (*ijma'*) among scholars of Islam on this matter.³

Time of Jumu'ah prayer.

The times of all obligatory prayers are set at particular times and must be performed within those set time frames. Allah SWT says: "*Verily, for all believers prayer is indeed a sacred duty linked to particular times [of day]*"⁴ The exact times of each obligatory prayer have been elaborated and explained by the Sunnah of the prophet SWT.

The Jumu'ah prayer's time is the same as Dhuhr prayer time according to the opinion of the overwhelming majority of scholars. The Dhuhr prayer time begins after the sun had passed its meridian (*zawal*). This position is based on a large number of authentic narrations from the time of the Prophet (S) and righteously guided Caliphs which indicate that jumu'ah prayers were conducted after the sun had passed its median (*zawal*)⁵. However, there is also a position related from Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal (d.240H) that Jumu'ah can be performed before Dhuhr time. This position is based on a few reports which indicate that on some occasions Jumu'ah was performed earlier. Imam Ibn Qudama, a Hanbali jurist, notes that most narrations indicate that Jumu'ah was performed after Dhuhr, fewer narration indicate that on occasions Jumu'ah was performed before Dhuhr. He concludes that the preferred and

¹ Quran, Surah 62, verse 9.

² *Sahih Bukhari*, chapter "Friday Prayer"; *Sahih Muslim*, The book of Friday prayer.

³ Imam Al-Shawkani, *Nael Al-Awtar*, Vpl. 3, Page 223 (نيل الأوطار للشوكاني)

⁴ Quran, Surah 4, verse 103.

⁵ Wahba Azzuhaili, *Al-Fiqh Al-Islami Wa-Adilatuh*, Vol. 2, pages 272-273 (الفقه الإسلامي وأدلته لوهبة الزحيلي)

appropriate time for Jumu'ah is Dhuhr time, but it if needed it would be permissible to do it before Dhuhr.⁶

The European Fiqh Council's recent fatwa on this subject noted the following main points:

- The agreed upon time of Jumu'ah is after *zawal* (sun passes its median), and that is preferable.
- Muslims should seek what has been agreed upon and avoid controversy as much as possible.
- If circumstances makes it difficult to perform jumu'ah after *zawal*, then Muslims can take the opinion of the Hanbali school that permits performance of jumu'ah before *zawal*.⁷

The Association of Sharia Scholars of North America has also adopted a similar position.⁸

Recommendation:

Based on the above notes, the committee recommends the following:

- The main Jumu'ah prayer should always remain after *zawal*. Those who can make it at that time, they should do so.
- To accommodate those whose working conditions make it difficult to attend Jumu'ah during summer hours, arrangements can be made to accommodate them so that they can perform Jumu'ah before *zawal*.
- On days where Friday happens to be holiday, all Jumu'ah prayers should be held at the normal dhuhr time. Allah knows best.

⁶ Imam Ibn Qudama, *Al-Mughni*, pages 356-358 (المغني)

⁷ <http://e-cfr.org/new/>

⁸ <http://majles.alukah.net/t52765/>