Appendix I
Muslim Estimate

The following proposal was accepted by the Operations Committee and formed the basis of the Muslim Estimate in the *2010 U.S. Religion Census*.

Proposed Mosque and Muslim Count
Lead Researcher: Ihsan Bagby

Objective: Provide a county level count of all masjids in the United States and obtain a count of adherents and attendance at these masjids.

Participating People/Organizations:

Ihsan Bagby, Professor, University of Kentucky
Riad Ali, President of MuslimGuide.com
Larry Mamiya, Professor, Vassar College
Dave Roozen, Director, Hartford Institute for Religion Research
Rich Houseal, Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies
Louay Safi, Executive Director, ISNA Leadership Training Center
Yaser Tabbara, Director of Chapter Development, CAIR

Definition of Congregation: U.S. Religion Census will aggregate to the county level the number of Masjids, defined as (1) a Muslim association/organization, that (2) holds Jum'ah Prayer and that (3) organizes other Islamic activities.

Definition of Adherent: U.S. Religion Census will aggregate to the county level the number of adherents as defined by survey question 6: "Approximately how many Muslims are associated in any way with the religious life of your masjid? Please include adults and children, as well as both regular and irregular participants."

Definition of Attendance: U.S. Religion Census will aggregate to the county level an average attendance as defined by survey question 2: "At a typical Jum'ah Prayer, what is the total attendance—including men, women and children?"

After this proposal was accepted, Bagby outlined the following procedures:

An initial masjid was compiled from four sources, three of them being online sources of information on mosques: (1) the masjid list from the 2000 Masjid Study, (2) Muslim Guide, (3) Islamic Finder, and (4) Salatomatic. Local Muslims were contacted to verify information on existing mosques and identify mosques not on our list. Most local Muslims were representatives of local CAIR chapters. The Islamic Shura Council of Southern California also helped us. In New York City, the Center for American Muslim Research and Information helped. Based on these efforts we identified a little over 1,900 masjids.

From this list we sampled 727 mosques, using a stratified sample based on zip codes. A first-class letter was sent to masjids asking them to participate in the study. Only about 10 masjids responded. Interviewers conducted a phone interview with masjid leaders. A masjid leader was defined as (1) the Imam or President of the mosque or (2) a member of the Mosque's Board. About 9 interviewers were hired at different times to conduct the telephone interviews.

Interviewers were asked to modify the existing masjid list as they sought to locate masjid leaders. Through this process the original list was expanded to its final number of 2,106 mosques.

Estimating Adherents and Attendance to the County Level:

Bagby was able to supply location information for every masjid in the United States to the U.S. Religion Census data collection office. He used the survey information to estimate a total Muslim population within each state. The U.S. Religion Census staff then used Bagby's state figures to estimate adherents and attendance for each mosque. For surveyed masjids, the reported adherent and attendance counts were used. For those not surveyed, the remaining state Muslim counts were assigned proportionately, with larger estimates for those masjids within larger metropolitan areas. Totals were then aggregated to the county level.