

## Cedarkirk responds to terrorism allegations

In early November of 2005, the Muslim American Society of Tampa, described as a chaplaincy organization on the campus of USF, asked Cedarkirk Camp, a Presbyterian affiliated conference center to hold a retreat at the facility. The program sponsored was described as a peaceful time apart, to learn peacemaking, experience the beauty of creation and recreation. Cedarkirk would never allow any program advocating any form of violence or hate-mongering to take place on our site. The Society provided us with copies of their curriculum, inviting our staff to be present at their event, so that we could see first hand the peaceful nature of their program.

During the week of December 25<sup>th</sup>, terrorism allegations were made against the Muslim American Society and retreat speakers. We immediately exercised due diligence contacting the relevant governmental authorities at both the local and the federal level. They informed us that there was nothing at all about the scheduled speakers or this group that should cause us to not allow this group to come on retreat.

Due to threats received, Cedarkirk's Board of Directors has had to close the entire camp and cancel all activities over the December 31<sup>st</sup> weekend.

For further information about this matter, please contact Rev. Debra or John Bronkema at (813) 685-4224 ext 4 or [director@cedarkirk.com](mailto:director@cedarkirk.com).