

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
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1833 - Ruling on renting churches for salaah

the question

What is the ruling on renting churches as places to hold the five daily prayers or Jumu'ah and Eid prayers, given that there are statues and all the other things that churches usually contain, but knowing that churches are usually the cheapest places that can be rented from Christians and that some universities and charitable organizations may even offer them for use on these occasions without charge?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The Muslims should strive as much as they can to build their own places of worship, which should be built according to Islamic sharee'ah, structurally sound, without extravagance or decoration. If the Muslims cannot build their own mosques and they need a place to pray, and they cannot find anywhere other than a church, then "hiring churches to pray in them is not forbidden in sharee'ah if it is necessary, but praying towards statues and pictures should be avoided, and they should be covered or concealed if they are in the direction of the qiblah."