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Atlanta Interfaith Manifesto brings leading interfaith figures Rev. Katharine Henderson, Eboo Patel on March 23 to Center for Civil and Human Rights

March 14, 2017 (Atlanta) — Organizers of the Atlanta Interfaith Manifesto, inspired by the same spirit that has made Atlanta a leading city for civil and human rights over the past 60 years, will hold a luncheon with two of the leading figures in the United States' interfaith community, Rev. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, President of Auburn Theological Seminary, and Eboo Patel, Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), at 11:30 a.m. on March 23 at the Center for Civil and Human Rights.

The Reverend Dr. George Wirth, former pastor of <u>First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta</u>, will deliver the opening remarks. Rabbi Peter S. Berg, Senior Rabbi at <u>The Temple</u>, will deliver the closing remarks. Soumaya Khalifa, founder of the <u>Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta</u>, will provide speaker introductions and serve as moderator.

In September 2016, 75 leaders from Atlanta's religious, business and academic communities issued the <u>Atlanta Interfaith Manifesto</u>, setting forth principles upon which they are taking a stand to affirm interfaith cooperation. Presently, almost 500 additional individuals have signed on to the Manifesto through its website. Its principles are:

- Advancing Interfaith Cooperation
- Marshaling Religious Diversity
- Celebrating Atlanta's Broader Significance
- Taking a Stand

At the event, Henderson and Patel each will deliver a short talk and then will remain for a question-and-answer session, during which attendees can submit written questions. The original endorsers, along with partner organizations, media, and steering committee members, have been invited to attend. The luncheon is not open to the public because of limited seating.

"We hope this event will draw attention to the importance of interfaith cooperation in which we, as Americans, respect each other's right to worship or not as we please," said Tom Glenn, Chair of the trustees of the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation who helped to organize the effort. "We are honored to have thought leaders of Eboo's and Katharine's stature come to Atlanta for this important occasion."

Under Henderson's leadership, Auburn Theological Seminary has become a leader in the multi-faith movement for social justice by equipping bold and resilient leaders of faith and moral courage to build congregations and communities and bridge divides.

Patel, an American Muslim, founded Chicago-based IFYC on the idea that religion should be a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. U.S. News & World Report <u>named</u> him one of "America's Best Leaders" in 2009 and he served on the Obama Administration's inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

To learn more, please visit www.atlantainterfaithmanifesto.org.

Interviews available upon request.