

ATLANTA INTERFAITH MANIFESTO

A STATEMENT DENOUNCING RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY AND CALLING FOR INTERFAITH COOPERATION

THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GRANTS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM as an inalienable right. Indeed, intolerance is antithetical to our nation's founding principles. Despite this mandate, there has been an alarming escalation of religious intolerance in our country recently, inflicting two sets of victims: those who are impugned because of their beliefs, and those whose fears are exploited by false, incendiary, misguided rhetoric.

ATLANTA'S HISTORY IS REplete WITH THE STORIES OF GIANTS WHO CAME BEFORE US, whose leadership guided us through critical moments. Today, we come together as religious, business, civic, academic, and philanthropic leaders, exhorting our fellow citizens to take inspiration from the courageous acts of our forebears and pursue the following principles:

1. ADVANCE INTERFAITH COOPERATION: We believe that our nation's founding commitment to democracy with religious freedom demands that we pursue interfaith cooperation; this includes respect and accommodation for diverse religious and secular identities, positive relationships between those of different religious and philosophical views, and a commitment to working together across lines of difference to advance the common good.

2. MARSHAL RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY: We believe that Atlanta holds a special place in U.S. history as well as contemporary and future American and global spheres. The religious diversity at the heart of this city propelled the Civil Rights Movement and continues to stand as an asset that can enhance our region's ability to respond to human rights challenges with innovative solutions.

3. CELEBRATE ATLANTA'S BROADER SIGNIFICANCE: We believe that our city has made invaluable contributions to the betterment of our nation, and we call on Atlanta to once again serve as a beacon to the country and the world, showing the power and promise of interfaith cooperation.

4. TAKE A STAND: We pledge our willingness to speak out and stand against acts of hate and intolerance that threaten the very foundation on which our society was founded.

ENDORSERS

Rev. Joanna Adams
Inman Allen
Joe Bankoff
Rabbi Peter Berg
Arthur Blank
Bill Bolling
Hon. Lisa M. Borders
Richard Brown
The Very Rev. Sam Candler
Ethel Ware Carter
The Rev. William Clarkson IV
Michael Coles
Tom Cousins
John D. Cressler, PhD
Maria Cressler
Ann Curry
Buddy and Lillian Budd Darden
Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Imam Plemon T. El-Amin
Doug and Florida Ellis
Rev. Dr. Greg Ellison
Rev. Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr.
Hon. Shirley Franklin

Rex Fuqua
Mary Ellen Geiss
Lawrence L. Gellerstedt III
Lillian Giornelli
Tom and Lou Glenn
Scotty Greene
Sheffield Hale
John and Laura Hardman
Deacon Bob Hauert
Steve Hennessey
Doug Hertz
Soumaya Kahlifa
Derreck Kayongo
Blaine and Sylvia Kelley
Katharine Kelley
and Chad Riedel
Sarah and Jim Kennedy
Dena Kimball
Rabbi Joshua Lesser
Dr. Jan Love
Rev. Jill Morehouse Lum
Rev. Dan Matthews Jr.
Judy Marx

Megan McCamey
Penny McPhee
Egbert Perry
Alicia Philipp
Rev. Angela Rice
Rev. Natosha Reid Rice
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Jacqueline Royster PhD
David Rubinger
Michael and Lovette Russell
Rabbi Neil Sandler
Rabbi Ron Segal
Alana Shepherd
Doug Shipman
Rabbi Alvin Sugarman
Jack Sibley
Clyde C. Tuggle
Rev. Dr. William B. Wade
Rev. Dr. Edward L. Wheeler
Rev. George Wirth
Rev. Dr. Deanna Womack
Gareth J. Young

BY ENDORSING THIS STATEMENT, WE STAND STEADFASTLY BEHIND THE RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS to embrace their various spiritual beliefs in an inclusive environment that is free of religious bigotry. In making this public statement, we offer no support for any political figure or for any specific legislative proposal. Rather, we reaffirm the importance of religious cooperation in which we, as Americans, respect each other's right to worship, or not, as we please.

ENDORSE THE ATLANTA INTERFAITH MANIFESTO

Endorse the Atlanta Interfaith Manifesto by visiting AtlantaInterfaithManifesto.org and learn more about interfaith cooperation and the organizations in metro Atlanta that support it.