WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, the United States Supreme Court voted down by a vote of 5-4, Section IV of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 eliminating the process that determines which states require federal pre-clearance before changing the state’s voter laws; and

WHEREAS, the decision removed the central provision protecting minorities in states and cities with histories of racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, supporters of the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act say that things have changed and that racial discrimination no longer exists, but the reality of voter suppression tactics of intimidation, gerrymandering, restrictive identification demands, state redistricting and long lines tell a different story; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is seeking to live into its Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism initiative as one of its primary mission priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to be a faithful growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, call on Congress to enact legislation that redefines the process for determining which states need preclearance in accordance with Section V of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) call on members of the church and our ecumenical partners to work for legislation that ensures equal access to the right to vote for all United States citizens; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) stand in solidarity with groups and organizations who are seeking justice and equal voice for all persons in order that all may participate with equal opportunity in the decision making processes of the United States.

Timothy James, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
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