



Racial Justice

Our Faith Our Vote: Issue Education Resource

Where Does the UCC Stand on Racial Justice?

In 2003, General Synod 24 adopted a resolution calling for the UCC to be an anti-racist church stating that “Racism is rooted in a belief of the superiority of whiteness and bestows benefits, unearned rights, rewards, opportunities, advantages, access, and privilege on people of European descent.”

This bold declaration came from faithful UCC followers of a radical Jesus who preached and taught justice for all. And because God loves the world, we who believe in freedom can envision the reality that racism will be dismantled.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law on August 6, 1965, to outlaw discriminatory voting practices, literacy tests, collection of poll taxes, bureaucratic restrictions, and other obstacles denying African Americans the right to vote as citizens of the United States of America. The passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was significant legislation especially during the Civil Rights Movement. The passage signaled a challenge to discriminatory practices of overt racism and racial injustice across the country.

On April 29, 2026, Supreme Court Justices in a 6-3 decision ruled to limit the Voting Rights Act, which disenfranchises congressional districts with majority representation of African American votes. According to news sources, The White House celebrated the Supreme Court decision as a “complete and total victory for American voters.”

The UCC believes the right to vote is sacred, and opposes policies and legislation aimed at restricting voting access, including making mail voting more difficult, implementing stricter photo ID laws, curtailing registration drives, intimidating eligible voters, or creating obstacles to voting, all of which create racial inequities in the exercise of democracy.

Prayer

“For too long we have known complacency and subjugation masquerading as love. Move us towards communities who are capable of the real thing. Our government, our justice system, our institutions, have been infiltrated and poisoned by empires whose only goal is the steady, desperate grasping for more power. Root this out.”

-Cole Arthur Riley, Black Liturgies

Want to learn more?

Contact Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice, Lovev@ucc.org

Questions for Candidates

- If elected, how will you lead in passing legislation on racial equality in a time when voting rights are being stripped from Black and Latino communities?
- What would you do to help protect civil rights on a federal level?
- Where do you stand on Congressional and community needs to study and enact a program of reparations?
- What specific policies have you supported or authored that were aimed at addressing racial disparities in education, housing, policing, healthcare, or elsewhere?

Take Additional Action

- Educate and inform voters of their rights
- Mobilize and engage communities to organize, strategize, and register people
- Know your state’s laws and advocate to protect voting rights
- Contact federal and state legislators to hold Congress accountable to the Voting Rights Act
- Support underrepresented communities
- Host community education gatherings in your local church