

After the conclusion of the Constituting Convention in Philadelphia in 1789 Benjamin Franklin said that we now have a living document. The Constitution for Franklin is and was a living document and he said the only things certain are death and taxes.

Since that document was created our democracy has had many tests. Today, we believe that another challenge has arisen. Citizens United is a law allowing unlimited contributions to political candidates. The Supreme Court has upheld this law. Now, only by constitutional amendment can Citizens United be overturned.

Are we to be a people of the people or are we to be a people of, by, and for the very rich? Does "free" speech mean "free" speech or are candidates for office going to the highest bidder? Will one family be able to spend as much on our campaigns for office as an entire universe of citizens? Will our campaigns be financed by the many persons able to give \$10 to a candidate of their choice or to a single person who may offset the million who give \$10?

There are projections that campaigns could reach \$3 billion in 2016. Citizens United allows persons to give any amount they wish. We, the undersigned, members of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, join hands with our Franciscan brothers and with other people of faith and ask that the Constitution be amended to disallow any one person or family to gain such power so as to endanger the foundations of democracy by compromising an individuals right solely based upon money to be an equal voice in our society. Like Benjamin Franklin we believe the Constitution to be a living document that on occasion may be changed for the benefit of the nation.

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