

JUDGE EVERETT MITCHELL BIO

Honorable Rev. Everett Mitchell is a Dane County Circuit Court Judge. He is also Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Judge Mitchell believes in the idea as expressed by James Baldwin, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." He is a graduate of Morehouse College, Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Judge Mitchell has demonstrated in many areas his continued commitment to fairness and justice. Before being elected to the bench, Judge Mitchell served as Director of Community Relations for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Under his leadership, UW-Madison invested \$350,000 in opening the South Madison Partnership Space to better promote University and Community relationships. Before going to the University, Judge Mitchell served Dane County as Assistant District Attorney. Previously, Judge Mitchell served as associate director of the Madison Area Urban Ministry (MUM) from 2004-2010 where he worked extensively with restorative justice programs for ex-offenders. As a Restorative Justice coordinator with Madison-area Urban Ministry, he and his team developed a system so men and women who return from prison would have a residence, employment, support, treatment and education. In addition to being on the Wisconsin Law Review and the Law School Mock Trial team, Judge Mitchell taught non-violent communication with Chapter 980 Sex Offenders as well as co-facilitated a program entitled, "Tying Your Tie," to teach Dane County Jail inmates how to use computer systems to job search.

Of all the speaking engagements and awards, Judge Mitchell is most honored to be the first black Pastor of a Baptist Church to marry a same sex couple. While he has received considerable push-back and anger from those who oppose his position regarding same gender marriage, he has remained committed and dedicated to his path of equity and justice. He is working on a book entitled, "My Black Gay Church: A Congregation of Resistance."

He has been involved with several community service groups, among them 100 Black Men of Madison, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Communities of Color and Police workgroup through United Way, the United Way of Dane County Co-Chair of Community Impact Team, on the Board of Goodman Community Center as well as a board member of Agrace Hospice. He is the Social Action chair of the Woodson Foundation responsible for the Annual Turkey Drive in South Madison.

As Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock, he leads a congregation involved with improving the lives of children, families and communities. It is truly an inspiring place where the ideal of being a church "where everybody is somebody," is lived out and put into practice. He has assisted in starting programs from gardening at the church to building relationships with diverse racial and theological congregations.

Whether Judge Mitchell has marched in the streets protesting the shooting of unarmed people by police or counseling young men and women at community centers about how to build a life of options, he does so with a passion and desire for justice and equality.

He is a father, a husband, a friend and is committed to a vision of Dane County where the “Beloved Community,” is not just aspirational but real.

Awards:

Dane County Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award

GSAFE Leadership of Color Award

Freedom Inc. Solidarity Award

Outreach Ally of the Year Award

Odyssey Partnership Award

Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year Award