

Press Statement

Reverend Everett Mitchell

Senior Pastor Christ the Solid Rock Church

In our Christian tradition, the black church has often been a central force in making sure that our community has the resources it needs when the social net develops holes or cracks. Since the recession hit, our church, Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church, has been doing everything we can to keep our members out of homelessness, keep their electricity and heat on and ensure that their children receive the nutritious meals they need to remain academically alert while in school. It is difficult to do so when our congregation is a low income community of people who are all in various stages of trying to rebuild their lives. We receive no county, state, city, federal or denominational funding to help out those in our congregation. Often we may raise additional offerings, cook dinners, donate clothes and furnishings or become advocates to assist in navigating the system. While we are located on the East Side of Madison, we service families on the North, South, West of Madison as well as throughout the County in Verona, Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, Stoughton and Middleton.

The idea that congregations are all positioned the same and should and could do more is reflective of a disconnected social system. We serve because we believe in a society that takes care of the least of these. But, our convictions were never meant to rid social systems that our tax dollars support permission to push the burden on us. We are here to support but not become the social net.

Peace