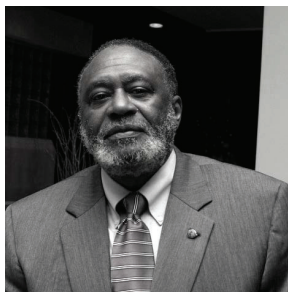


Metro Detroit Truth & Reconciliation Commission



Robert Brown

Mr. Brown is currently the Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of The Harvard Drug Group, LLC, a pharmaceutical wholesale company located in Livonia, Michigan and have been in this position since 2006. Prior to that time, he was Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance and Auxiliary Services for Detroit Public Schools from 2000-2006 and Director of Youth Development and Economic Equity for New Detroit, Inc. from 1997-2000. He practiced corporate and real estate law in private practice from 1987-1997, graduating Wayne State Law School in December, 1986 and University of Michigan in December, 2007. He has been a board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council since 1989, served as President of the University of Michigan Alumni Letterwinners Club, board member of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, PAL, Detroit Executive Service Corps, International Institute and University of Michigan Club of Greater Detroit.



William T. Robinson

Rev. Robinson is a retired clergy member of the United Methodist Church, Detroit Conference, served for more than forty years in positions of leadership as pastor, national staff executive, and District Superintendent. These responsibilities included relating to and traveling throughout the United States, countries in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Married with two children, and one grandchild. Rev. Robinson enjoys reading Afrocentric literature and history and listening to traditional Negro Spirituals, jazz, and “do wop” music.



Carrie Landrum

Carrie was born in Detroit and grew up in Pleasant Ridge and Ferndale where her parents labored to desegregate the school system in the late 1970s. She went to high school and college in Georgia, where she earned her B.A. in International Studies from Emory University in 1999. After teaching English to ethnic minorities in Transylvania, Romania, where she met her husband, Carrie rejoined her family in Detroit and earned her M.A. in Dispute Resolution from Wayne State University in 2007. Carrie is employed at the University of Michigan Office of

Student Conflict Resolution where she facilitates conflict transformation and healing through practices infused with restorative justice, social justice, respect, empathy, and empowerment. This fall she was honored to receive the University of Michigan Distinguished Diversity Leader award in recognition of her work. Carrie and her husband Peter just celebrated their nine-year wedding anniversary and live with their dog Riley on an acre and a half of farmland on Fellows Creek in Canton, where she enjoys creative pursuits such as gardening and photography.



Akua Budu-Watkins

A native Detroiter, Akua Budu-Watkins is dedicated to the advocacy of social justice, human rights and women's empowerment. Her journey as an activist began with her family's participation in the 1963 Detroit march with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ms Watkins has a broad range of expertise in political strategy and organizational development. She is well known and respected for building and maintaining key alliances and partnerships within the community in public and private sectors. Ms. Watkins serves on the Detroit Metro

Association/ Division of Outreach-Social Justice Ministry Team, United Church of Christ. She is a member of the historic Shrine of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church in Detroit. Akua has been an activist internationally and has travelled to Europe, South America, the Caribbean and Africa to address important issues of justice and equity.



Tom Shurtleff

Tom Shurtleff has been a lifelong resident of metropolitan Detroit. Mr. Shurtleff grew up on the near ‘eastside’ and currently lives on the ‘westside’ in Farmington Hills. Through his parents and grandparents Tom was immersed in the wonderful variety of peoples and cultures throughout metro-Detroit. He states his “life has been one constant gift of awakening and re-awakening to diversity throughout the metropolitan area.” Tom has been married for 32 years to his wife Julie and the parents of two adult daughters. Personally and professionally he has

been involved in organizations and efforts seeking to celebrate diversity and explore difference and values. Before redefining his life in 2003 he actively served in the fire and emergency services. Regarding his appointment on the Metro Detroit Truth and Reconciliation Commission he offers these words from a unique Broadway Musical entitled; Paint Your Wagon, by Alan J. Lerner and Frederick Lowe: “Where am I goin’?, I don’t know. Where am I headin’ ? I ain’t certain, When will I get there? I ain’t equipped to say. All that I know is that I [we] am [are] on my [our]way”



Thomas H. Priest Jr.,

Son of a career Army sergeant, Mr. Priest is a retired automotive engineer, a Presbyterian Elder and Candidate for Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament). He Received a BS Civil Engineering in 1975, Howard University, Washington, D.C., MS in Manufacturing Systems 1994 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York and an MS of Divinity 2009 from Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan. A Past Moderator and Chair of the Coordinating Cabinet, past chair of Metropolitan Urban Ministry Team and past Co-chair of the Antiracism and Reconciliation Team of the Presbytery of Detroit. Mr. Priest also serves as an Adjunct Chaplain at DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital is a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church and a Life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Married and the father of two (2) daughters.



Khalilah Burt Gaston

Ms. Gaston received her Masters of Urban Planning, with a specialization in Housing and Economic Development from the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. As Development Specialist with the State of Michigan Land Bank, Ms. Gaston manages economic development projects on behalf of the Authority. Prior to that, she worked as a program evaluator for the Skillman Foundation Faith-Based ACTS Initiative. Over 5 years, the evaluation team was successful in helping to build the capacity

of over 55 Detroit churches and neighborhood-based organizations and leveraging the Foundation’s initial \$4M investment into \$16M of additional support. An active resident of Detroit’s historic Arden Park/East Boston neighborhood, Ms. Gaston is a member of the Program Committee for the Urban Land Institute, Detroit Chapter. a member of the Steering Committee for Detroit Declaration and a member of the Michigan Economic Developers Association.



Dr. Estrella Torrez

Dr. Torrez is an Assistant Professor in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. Her scholarship centers on language politics and the importance of community-based knowledge, particularly among rural migrant families and urban Indigenous youth. Dr. Torrez is a Gates Millennium Scholar, being awarded the prestigious award during its inaugural year. While she began her collegiate career at the University of Detroit Mercy, Dr. Torrez transferred to Western Michigan University where she earned a BS in Elementary Education. Subsequently, she attended The University of New Mexico, receiving an MA with dual concentrations in Early Childhood Multicultural Education and Bilingual Education, and a PhD in Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies with a concentration in Bilingual Education. Recently, Dr. Torrez co-founded and directs the Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program, a program serving urban Native youth in Michigan. Her current research focuses primarily on migrant education in rural America, urban Native education in the Midwest, and writing autoethnographies of the experiences of women of color in the academy. She has taught university experiential-based university courses on Latino and Indigenous issues in Mexico and the US Southwest.



Alan Amen

A life-long civil rights advocate born and raised in Dearborn, Alan Amen, a graduate of Wayne State University was employed in higher education for over twenty years. He was elected to the School Board, and was the driving force behind establishing bilingual, bicultural education in the Dearborn Public Schools. As a Public Relations and Marketing Consultant he gained acceptance and support of a program to increase African American participation and ownership in the retail petroleum business and received the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee’s 2001

Building Bridges of Understanding Award and the Peacemaker Award from the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. A single father of three, Mr. Amen joined the administration of Robert Ficano and continues as an Executive Assistant.