

# Roslyn Murray Bouier, MDIV

## Biographical Sketch (Bio)

Recognized because of her passion for all people, Roslyn Murray Bouier is a preacher, pastor, advocate, activist, organizer and a ‘Repairer of the Breach.’

Rev. Roslyn Bouier serves as New Church Start Planter, Pastor of *The Beloved Community*, UCC. Also serving as Pastor for *Trinity St. Mark’s*, UCC.

Rev. Roz, as she is known throughout metro-Detroit, has been a community activist for over a decade. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Brightmoor Connection Client Choice Food Pantry, [www.brightmoorconnection.org](http://www.brightmoorconnection.org) 501©3, where she has been aiding people since 2011. Within this role, Rev. Roz services over 3,600 high-need families annually through a client choice model food pantry.’ The pantry model was specifically selected because it affords individuals the dignity of shopping through a grocery aisle without the stigma of a traditional pantry.

In addition to providing food, the pantry serves as a water station for those Brightmoor households subjected to water insecurity (water shut offs), and or water contamination. In 2017, Rev. Roz extended the pantry’s services beyond consumables by offering families an opportunity to shop for men, women, and children’s clothing. In addition, within that same year, Rev. Roz initiated the Christmas meal baskets program, children’s coats and boots give away.

Rev. Roz’s heart to serve the underserved has been a constant. She is responsible for planting six (6) food pantries throughout the greater metropolitan area, as well as, establishing 25 feeding programs over the years.

Rev. Roz’s high level of commitment and responsibility has allowed her to secure funding and support from such organizations as the Fischer Foundation, Total Health Care, United Way and Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeast Michigan, among others. In fact, due to her distinguished leadership, Brightmoor Connection Client Choice Food Pantry has been a Fischer Foundation grant recipient since 2011.

In addition to Rev. Roz’s fight for food security, she advocates for renters’ rights, community equity in shared transit, parity in community benefits, and water security. Rev. Roz has interfaced with a myriad of business, organizational and community leaders, all on behalf of the underserved. In 2016 she founded *Women of Brightmoor*; a social justice groups whose purpose is to affect a more just and affordable water payment system. By way of the group, and in collaboration with *water warriors*, Rev. Roz is now training up additional women warriors to come alongside her; teaching and empowering local women to advocate on behalf of their communities.

Rev. Roz is a sought-after activist, speaker, organizer, trainer, and preacher, who have been featured in a litany of media outlets. Rev. Roz was the Ecumenical Keynote Speaker for the National Women’s Convention, Cobo Arena, 2017. Listings of all of her credits and awards, as well as education and affiliations are listed below.

### ***Credits, Award, Podcast:***

- *Michigan Voices Reproductive Justice Working Group, Wisdom Institute Guest Speaker, Praxis of Womanist Interpretation as relating to Reproductive Rights for Women, Cis, Trans, and Non-binary folk, January 25, 2022*
- *National Wildlife Federation Clean Economy Coalition of Color, Faith Leaders and Farmers, Panelist, January 26, 2022*
- *Policy Consultant, Food Insecurity and Water Insecurity, Ben Gurion University, January 2022*
- *Slate Magazine, Turn on the water, Martina Guzman, January 13, 2021*
- *910 AM Nicole Smalls Radio Interview, January 13, 2021*
- *Podcast: Tracey Thomas, Executive Producer, Talk with Trace, [www.talkwithtrace.com](http://www.talkwithtrace.com) August 17, 2021*
- *Podcast: PBS, Water Insecurity, May 2020*
- *T.V. Interview: Vice TV, Vice Series, Season 2; COVID-While the Rest of Us Die, April 2020*
- *Published, Justice Unbound, Presbyterian Church USA, Starry Black Night; A Womanist Advent Devotional, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:46b-55, <https://justiceunbound.org/starryblacknight>, November 19, 2020.*
- *Published, Oxford Academic, Water Insecurity and Psychosocial Distress: Case Study of the Detroit Water Shut-Offs, Journal of Public Health fdaa157, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdaa157>, published September 2020.*
- *Bread for the Earth; Race, Covid-19, and Hunger in African America: Episode I, July 26, 2020*
- *HBSAA Webinar: Starving for Justice: Part I, <https://youtube.be/OJzyyy6oA8U> June 24, 2020.*
- *Print Interview, Planet Detroit; Will Detroit be returning to mass water shutoffs in the middle of a pandemic? Author Brian Allnut, June 5, 2020*
- *Print Interview, The Guardian; Detroit Families still without clean water despite shutoffs being lifted, by Poppy Noor, May 20, 2020*
- *Facebook Live Interview; Right to the City*
- *Podcast Interview, Vice Podcast; The Distance: Coronavirus Dispatches water shutoffs, May 14, 2020*
- *Podcast Interview, Presbyterian Church USA—Office of Public Witness, <https://youtube.be/GxDlZe5Luy>, May 11, 2020*
- *Facebook Live / Podcast Interview: Voices for Earth Justice, May 5, 2020*
- *Print Interview, BBC News, Washington; Coronavirus: I can't wash my hands—my water is cut off, by Aleem Maqbool, April 24, 2020*
- *Live Interview, Democracy Now; Wash your hands? Despite pandemic, thousands still have no water in Detroit, a Coronavirus hotspot, April 13, 2020.*
- *Print Interview, Belt Magazine; Detroit water shutoffs and a crisis of public health, March 9, 2020*

- *Interview: Detroit Water Stories; An Open-Access Oral History Project from Wayne State University; Interview Reverend Roslyn Bouier part 1*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpxVyVWpsZl>
- *Speaker: Michigan World Water Day Faith Leaders Press Conference, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, Mi. 3/23/2019*
- *Webinar: Building Movement Project: Tools to Engage Part 5: How Social Change Happens; the view from Detroit, 2/26/2019*, <https://www.youtube.com>
- *Print Interview: Welcome to Detroit, where black babies are at higher risk of death, by Martina Guzman*, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jan/31/detroit-black-infant-death-rate-health-hazard-deprivation>
- *Action—Detroit Jews for Justice; Illuminating Water Justice: Hanukkah; Campus Martius*, 12/2/2018
- *Print Interview: In These Times; Surviving a Summer Without Water*, by Valerie Vande Panne; 10/2018
- *Print Interview: In Search of Solutions to Detroit Water Shutoffs – Could Philly be the Answer*, by Jake Neher; wdet.org; 6/ 2018.
- *Radio Interview: National Public Radio (NPR) 51; Dame Magazine*, by Taylor Wizner; 4/2018
- *Podcast interview: United But Not Uniform; Finding Faith at the Women's Convention*, by Jenna Barnett, Sojourners Podcast – Sojo Net; <http://player.fm>seriesunitedbutnotuniform>; 11/2017
- *Keynote speaker: National Women's Convention, Ecumenical Interfaith Service – Cobo Arena*; 10/29/2017
- *Print Interview: Celebrating Women of Color Solutionaries in Detroit*, by Sarah Alexander, Ms. Magazine; <http://msmagazine.com/blog/2017/10/27celebrating-women0color-solutionaries-detroit/.org>
- *Television interview: American Black Journal with Stephen Henderson*; <https://youtubeMH8F9HmNg1>; 10/2017
- *Profiled: I Dream Detroit; Institute for Policy Studies*, by Kimberly Freeman and Marc Bayard; [www.ips-dc.org](http://www.ips-dc.org); 8/2017
- *Addressed: State of Michigan House of Representatives – The Rise of Food Insecurity in Detroit*, Stephanie Chung; 10/2016
- *Profiled: Who's in Charge of Transforming Detroit*, Building Movement Project; 5/2016
- *Award: Detroit People's Platform – 2015 Justice Award*
- *Education*
  - *Master of Divinity*, Ashland Theological Seminary, 5/2018
  - *Diploma of Practical Ministry*, Ashland Theological Seminary, 5/ 2015
  - *Graduate Studies*, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, 1/2015 – 6/2016
  - *Licensed Minister, Preacher/ Teacher*, 8/ 2013
- *Affiliations*  
Building Movement Project | We the People | Brightmoor Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) | Detroit People's Platform | Society of Biblical Literature | Detroit Justice Center | Equitable Detroit Coalition | Michigan Poor People's Campaign
- *Board Affiliations*
- *Founder, President, Chair, Brightmoor Connection, 501©3 (2015--Present)*

- *Board Member, Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan* ©4 (2020-Present)
- *Co-Chair, Redford Brightmoor Initiative (RBI) 501©3* (2018-2020)