

Roger (Njemanze) Short was born July 8, 1948 in Detroit Michigan. His mother Mildred Godbee joined Central Congregation Church in the early 1950's. She was active as a Den Mother in Cub Pack 779. Roger soon followed, participating in Cub and Scout Packs sponsored by the Church.

In the early 1960's the pastor, Reverend Albert B. Cleage led the Church in a more social activist direction. One of the programs he supported was the Youth Fellowship Program. Roger joined the Program which met every Sunday afternoon. There he really got to know Reverend Cleage and his views on the civil rights struggle. He challenged the young people in the group to think and question what and how white America defined Black Americans. It was truly a revolutionary experience that set his path in life.

Roger went to Cass Technical High School where he participated in varsity track and football. At the University of Michigan, he helped start the first Black Student Union and was an active participant in the original Black Action Movement.

Returning to Detroit, Roger joined ATG Group #9 where he met Nilaja, and all the great sisters in the Group. For him it was truly a wonderful experience to work with others who were equally dedicated to the Black Revolutionary Struggle.

In 1972, Roger started his professional career at the City of Detroit, where he promptly charged the City with racial discrimination. The case was settled with a promotion for him, but he knew the City was not really for Blacks in the professional ranks. In 1974 Roger left the City and joined Arthur Andersen & Company. Again another experience that sharpened his analytical skills.

In 1977 Roger left Arthur Andersen and took a job with the Honorable Coleman A. Young's campaign who was running for reelection.

After the reelection of the Mayor to his second term he was appointed to the Detroit Building Authority. In 1979 Roger passed the examination for the Certified Public Accountancy. He left the City and joined the African-American accounting firm of Barrow, Coleman, and Aldridge. During this period, Roger was the treasurer for many politicians, as well as judges. Some of the most notable jurists were Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer and Judge Cynthia Diane Stephens.

In 1985 he left the firm as Tom Barrow decided to run against Mayor Young and took the position of Auditor General for the City of Detroit.

Roger has held many finance related positions in the City including Budget Director and the Chief Financial Officer. He has also served on many boards, including Detroit Central Cities, Legal Aid and Defenders Association, Adult Well-Being Services and Interim House.

Over the years Roger has served as a mentor, volunteer for many charitable organizations including the YMCA where he was named Volunteer of Year in 2013.