

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



SANCTUARY
COVENANT CHURCH



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A WORD FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Sanctuary Family,

Sankofa is an African idea that says “Life is lived moving forward but only understood when we pause and look back. While being honest about the pressure to rush into 2024, I appreciate the opportunity that we have as a church family to look back and get a clearer picture of what God did in us and through us in 2023.

We are a blessed church! There are so many things that I love about The Sanctuary and this report is an attempt to name some of those things. I want to invite you to not only read this but to allow it to be a part of your prayer time in this season. Let’s recall God’s faithfulness and lift up prayers and words of thanksgiving to God! As we prepared this report, my heart overflowed with joy at the pictures, the stories, and the numbers that reflect moments and people that God loves dearly. Our programs and processes matter because they are intended to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus. That is why we do what we do!

With a clearer sense of 2023, we will head into 2024 together, remembering the Apostle’s words in Philippians 1:6 that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I want to thank you for being a part of God’s family here at Sanctuary. I pray this year is a blessing to you and yours!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edrin C. Williams
Lead Pastor

STAFF



Special thanks to JT Marshall, Melissa Hernandez and Khanh Ngyuen for their service for parts of 2023.

ELDERS



2023 Elders Pictured:

- Rosemary Klass, Joel Crandall, Janice Downing
- Nestor Quarshie, Isetta Pierre, Khahn Nguyen
- Eric Robinson, Joyce Gayle, Ginny Olson

VISION & MISSION

Vision: An urban, multi-ethnic, multiplying movement, reconciling people to God and one another.

Purpose: To grow as a multiethnic, multigenerational community of Christ-followers, demonstrating God's love from North Minneapolis, throughout the city, to the whole world

Mission: To make and develop followers of Jesus Christ who:

- Continually study and practice God's word (we are biblical)
- Worship God with our whole lives (we are devotional)
- Cultivate loving relationships across race, economic status, gender or any potential barrier (we are connectional)
- Help to spread the Good News of Jesus in word and also deeds of compassion, mercy, and justice (we are missional)



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



We kicked off 2023 in high fashion with our **20th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme of **“20 & Beyond”** paid homage to God’s faithfulness over the first 20 years, while inviting us to prayerfully imagine what God has in store for our future! We celebrated with a Leaders’ Reception, a Gospel Brunch, and our 20 & Beyond Fund, which raised over \$200,000 of seed money for future ministry!



In April, we partnered with World Vision to host **Chosen Sunday**, a more just sponsorship model. Partnering with four other multiethnic or Black-led churches, we sponsored more than 1,000 children in Ghana, West Africa.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Paired with the World Vision Chosen Initiative, Pastor Edrin took part in a **Sankofa Trip** during his time in Ghana. The trip included time at the Slave Castles and a chance visit with the Asante King while visiting Kumasi.

The trip was a healing and a fitting preparation for PE's first **pastoral sabbatical** during the late Summer and Fall months.



FORMATION

Royal Hood and Mosaic continued to partner with families to build strong foundations of faith for our children and youth through fun, biblical teaching and relational connection. We saw both ministries growing to pre-pandemic numbers with momentum for future growth.



FORMATION



Pastor Edrin often says, “all that we do is to the end that we make disciples of Jesus who go on to make other disciples of Jesus.” Because this is our central call, we can’t help but rejoice alongside heaven when someone decides to go public with their faith through baptism. In 2023, we celebrated 22 believers’ baptisms along with 6 baby dedications.





NEIGHBORING



Neighboring continues to be a primary expression of our love for Jesus and our community! Through community-focused events, school partnerships, care request, and Haven Pantry, we are impacting the lives of thousands of our neighbors each year.



WORSHIP

"God is a spirit and his worshipers must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)



BY THE NUMBERS

43

The percentage growth of households served by Haven Panty over the last nine months of 2023. We now serve approximately 120 households per week.

25,000

Dollars spent through Neighboring specifically on Care Requests, helping 85 North Minneapolis families

The number of Life Groups
In 2023

370

58

The number of people who attended our Starting Point lunches last year.

The number of new Connections &
Care volunteers

25



BY THE NUMBERS

176

The number of members and
attenders served through
our Care Ministry.

3

The number of partner schools in North
Minneapolis that we support.

560

The number of children
served In Royal Hood Children's
Ministry, up from 400 the year before.

5,396

Distance in miles between North Minneapolis
and the community of Agortime, Ghana, West Africa
where we are sponsoring nearly 100 families to support
clean water, health care, and education needs.

The number of volunteers that
make Royal Hood happen
each month.

112

WORDS OF THANKS

I want to extend words of gratitude to some amazing people who continue to make our life together as a church possible:

*To our staff team, thank you for the love you show our people and for the ways that you help others to follow Jesus. In big and small ways, you all live out the faith in inspiring ways. May your cups be refilled to overflow for all that you do!

*To our elders, you all are a wise, loving, and generous bunch who shoulder a great load on behalf of our church. I pray that you would be blessed with incredible joy and peace through your service!

*To the families of our staff and elders, thank you for your sacrifices of time and other things for the sake of ministry. I honor you and commit to continuing to think of how we care for our leaders and their loved ones as they serve.

*To our Covenant Members, regular attenders, and those who are new to Sanctuary, please know that we are driven by a love for Jesus and a heart to see you grow as followers of Jesus. Thank you for trusting us and following the Lord!

- Pastor Edrin

