

A Senate resolution

recognizing the 20th anniversary of Sanctuary Covenant Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2003, Sanctuary Covenant Church was established in the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the first grand opening worship service celebration was held at Patrick Henry High School. Between 2003 and 2011, the North Minneapolis-based church grew into one of the region's most influential and fastest growing churches, focused on biblical justice, racial reconciliation, youth empowerment, and community development; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2011, a major tornado hit North Minneapolis causing significant damage to the community. Sanctuary Covenant Church began emergency responses to serve thousands of people in the months following and helped the community to persevere; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, The Efrem and Donecia Smith Young Heroes Scholarship was established to support youth from Sanctuary Covenant Church from North Minneapolis to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, land was purchased along Aldrich Ave North and construction of the new Sanctuary Covenant Church building began under the leadership of Senior Pastor Dennis Edwards. In 2019, Pastor Edrin Williams became Sanctuary Covenant Church's third Senior Pastor. He recommitted the church to helping transform the corner of West Broadway and Lyndale Avenues in North Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by police in South Minneapolis, leading to large scale civil unrest in the Twin Cities and beyond. In response, Sanctuary Covenant Church became a major food and resource distribution site, serving thousands in the Twin Cities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Love MPLS was established as sister nonprofit organization to Sanctuary Covenant Church with the goal of extending the work and partnerships that began during the pandemic and civil unrest; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022, the Love MPLS Art Garden was created as a peaceful resistance and healing space on the corner of Broadway and Lyndale Avenues, helping to significantly decrease loitering, violence, and other negative behaviors in the area; and

WHEREAS, admiration and appreciation goes to the pioneers who established Sanctuary Covenant Church as a place of worship, to the early church leadership who created a strong family and community foundation, and to the dedicated staff, volunteers, and congregation members; and

WHEREAS, because of the commitment to faith and community, the doors of Sanctuary Covenant Church remain open for worship services, ministry, and service to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes January 26, 2023, as "Sanctuary Covenant Church Day" in Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Sanctuary Covenant Church.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziedzic
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Bobby Joe Champion
State Senator, District 59