



Here We Stand

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hair, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Psalm 71:17-18

HAVE QUESTIONS or need to meet to discuss participation? Would you like to have a presentation at your church? Call Ray or Linda at 888.225.2111.



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Here We Stand Campaign Summer Events

by Ray Zavada

The *Here We Stand* campaign is now three months into its fifth and final year of the Congregational Phase. Another way of saying it is that there are only nine months left for you to become a campaign participant. (Although I must add that some pledge fulfillments, and even new gifts, will continue to be received after the formal ending of the campaign.)

With the end of the campaign approaching, our two very popular summer events that support local congregational and school ministry will be held for the last time (at least as campaign-supporting events). Both events offer schools, congregations, and even individuals opportunities to raise significant funding for programs, operations, individual classrooms, and others.

Reformation 500 Walk, Run, Bike

This event is completed over several months to allow each participant to have the benefit of the entire summer to accomplish their exercise and fundraising goals. The typical period of time to participate is between May 1 and September 30, although some begin earlier and end later.

Participation is easy. Simply set a goal of completing 500 miles of exercise (or more or less miles depending upon your fitness level) during the time period you select. Then as you walk, run, or bike to reach your goal, you collect pledges or donations for the miles you will eventually complete. Then, upon reaching your goal, simply collect the monies you have raised through your efforts. We ask that you give 50% of the total monies you receive to your church, school, or other designated ministry, and send the other half to the *HWS* campaign of the Michigan District. It's that easy to participate.

Some of the most successful participation in the *Reformation 500* has seen members of

congregations and schools form a team for a collective purpose or as a competition against others.



Here We Ride

Here We Ride Bike Event

This very popular event for individuals and families is scheduled for August 7–8, 2021. Although the days are set, there are still decisions and details about the event that need to be made, as we continue to learn about the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and potential gathering limitations we must follow. As soon as our event chairperson (Pastor Chris Garcia from Immanuel, Bay City) and our planning team are comfortable making those decisions, more details will be announced.

This year's ride may again be an in-person event hosted by a Bay City area congregation as it was two summers ago, or it may be a virtual event as it was in 2020 (a very successful event, by the way). Our hope and prayer is that it will be both an in-person and a virtual event, and riders may do one or both. For example, you could ride in person on Saturday on the Bay City Trailway and complete a second ride in your community on Sunday; or you could complete one or two days of riding in just your community.

For now, I ask that you place the date(s) of your planned participation on your calendar, and we will provide more specifics as soon as we are able.

For more information, visit michigandistrict.org/hereweride or contact Linda Ekong at the Michigan District office at linda.ekong@michigandistrict.org or by phone at 734.213.4265.

Campaign Progress

Over \$8.32 million in gifts, pledges, and congregational goals to date.

Congregation Highlights

We would like to thank Our Savior, Glennie for joining the campaign with their recent gift.