

Readers to Leaders: A Conference Missions Challenge

Rev. Jon Reynolds, pastor at Brighton United Methodist Church, helped to launch the Readers to Leaders Campaign for the Michigan Conference. At the 2022 Michigan Annual Conference, the body voted overwhelmingly to support the "Readers to Leaders" fundraising campaign. The Goal is to raise \$400,000 from September 10, 2022 to May 1, 2024. Here is a bit of reflection from Rev. Reynolds about the heart of this Mission opportunity:

A couple of years ago when I was in Liberia, I heard several stories from parents about having to choose which one of their kids got to go to school. Their siblings were asked to work in the marketplace to raise money for their brother or sister to go to school. A lot of Liberian schools lack sanitation essentials like a flush toilet or running water. This meant that when parents chose which child got to go to school it was often a male student because the female students often have to leave school for a week each month when they start menstruating. The cost of sending a kid to school for a year in Liberia is \$300 which can be a couple weeks' worth of groceries these days.

I was inspired to launch the Readers to Leaders campaign in Liberia because I believe that every child should be able to go to school. I also feel that a parent should not have to choose which of their kids get to go to school. In Liberia, thousands of kids don't go to school every day. This campaign will help 100 students go to school from K-12th grade over the next decade. We hope that these kids will become the next generation of leaders. Each local church has been challenged to try to raise \$600 for the Readers to Leaders campaign.

To read even more about this important mission challenge, please visit: <https://michiganumc.org/missions/readerstoleaders/>



