

REV. SHIRLEY G. HARBACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



CRITERIA FOR THIS AWARD:

This scholarship is awarded to traditional and non-traditional students with a major in the School of Christian Ministry.

Shirley Grace Harbach was born October 12, 1953, to Nazarene lay people Fred and Pat Harbach. Her quest to serve in God's Kingdom seemed to arrive early and like Samuel (I Samuel 3) she responded to God's voice without hesitation. While other girls her age were playing dolls, she fervently set about structuring a church in our play area. Shirley preached to the teddy bears while her sister, Vicki, took the offering and sang. Her joy was full.

In her late teen years, she was the local youth leader, taught Sunday school, led van ministry, and also participated in convalescent home outreach. Her exploration of life scoped out holiness living and serving her Lord in all aspects of discipleship. She organized various church outings and began to preach locally.

Shirley attended Olivet Nazarene University and then returned to the Southwestern Ohio District to complete a five-year pastoral course of study at the extension of Nazarene Bible College in Kettering, Ohio.

She held an associate position at Middletown, Miamisburg, and Kettering and later pastored Williamsdale Church of the Nazarene on the Southwestern Ohio District.

Her zeal for the ministry was indeed the priority to which she dedicated her life. Never being married, Aunt Shirley adopted all the parishioners' "little ones" and spoiled, as well as nurtured, them in her spare time.

Shirley always held a full-time secular job during her ministry and officiated at numerous weddings and funerals. For several years she traveled as an independent evangelist to various denominations in the tri-state area.

As a Christian role model and mentor, she was without rival.

Shirley succumbed to acute cancer in 2018, three months short of her retirement. Her goal for the unachieved season of her life was to volunteer to her church and her God as a support staff. Her passion

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for the ministerial calling never wavered in her life. She was a true proponent of the faith and a legend of Godly love.

Our goal as her two surviving siblings, Melody Harbach Johnson and Vicki Harbach Trowbridge, is to support the educational journey of those called to the ministry on this educational zone. May their purpose and pursuit be fueled by those who have faithfully run the race and finished the course before them. “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace;” (Isaiah 52:7).

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