

## **JOHN L. RYBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**The Ryberg Scholarship was established on September 30, 1985 by members of the First Baptist Church of Smithfield, NC. The original committee wrote the following synopsis of Reverend Ryberg's life.**

John L. Ryberg served First Baptist Church as minister for 24 years plus one month. Mr. Ryberg was someone you respected and admired, even if you disagreed with him.

His keen mind and thirst for knowledge made him an avid reader and perpetual student. He had more than knowledge; he had a wisdom for which most of us could wish. His insights were solid, his assessments accurate, his posture on any issue, always Christian.

A modest and truly humble man, he always championed the best interests of others. He was a friend of the youth, the Blacks, the poor, the women, and the elite as well as the typical Baptist of his generation. He had a rare capacity to relate to every person, regardless of his or her station in life, and he had a way of always making the other person feel important.

His gentle spirit was not a denial of his resolute nature. He had deep convictions, which he honored, and in times of conflict or confrontation, he knew how to hold his ground while being diplomatic and considerate of other positions with which he disagreed. Mr. Ryberg practiced the art of compromise, but never at the price of forfeiting his cherished commitments to truth and integrity.

John L. Ryberg was a quality person who insisted on quality in every aspect of life. As some would lovingly say, "John's tastes were simple; he wanted the best." But there was no aloofness or arrogance about the man. He was compassionate and sensitive to others, and he never required of others anything he was not willing to do first himself.

He was a churchman of first rank and gave leadership to an effective congregation that readily bought into his philosophy that the church of Jesus Christ must be "intellectually respectable, socially responsible, and spiritually redemptive." He was all that and as the undershepherd of the flock, he led his people to be that also.

A lover of freedom – academic, editorial, speech, personal – he also believed in responsibility and never divorced the two. He defended one while calling for the other, which he demonstrated in his own life.

### **CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY:**

**To be eligible for the John Ryberg Scholarship, an applicant must:**

- 1. Be a high school senior and member of the First Baptist Church of Smithfield who will be attending college.  
Or  
Be a full-time student entering or attending an accredited protestant seminary/divinity school who is or has been an active member of the First Baptist Church of Smithfield for at least one year.**
- 2. Submit a completed scholarship application to the First Baptist Church office by or before Sunday, May 5.**

Upon completion of this application, please return to the church office by May 5.

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Smithfield First Baptist Church Membership Information:**

**Date of Membership** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach**

- 1. Resume:** Include information as it applies to high school or college:
  - High School or Colleges with Dates and Degrees
  - Sunday School and Church Participation, Scholastic Achievements, Community Participation, Awards, Scholarships
  - If applicable, information on financial need/hardships
- 2. Copy of your high school or college transcript**
- 3. Proof of Seminary / Divinity School enrollment** (Not for high school)
- 4. Short Essay: Topic** – Describe your future goals and the contributions you hope to make after reaching those goals.
- 5. Two Letters of Recommendations:**
  - Letter from your high school or university by someone who knows your character, academic abilities and achievements.
  - Letter from a member of the First Baptist Church of Smithfield, NC. Do not include a family or staff member.

**The Ryberg Scholarship Committee will review all completed applications and interview only the applicants who meet the scholarship criteria. All applicants will receive a written notification from the Scholar Chair by May 15<sup>th</sup>**