

7-1933

## UA3/1/2/1 Henry Cherry Correspondence

WKU President's Office

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# Mississippi Delta State Teachers College

Cleveland, Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 24, 1933

President H.H. Cherry  
Western State Teachers College  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

While serving as chairman of the assembly committee at the Mississippi Delta State Teachers College during the past year, I came to the conclusion that one of the most vital problems of the teachers college is the assembly hour.

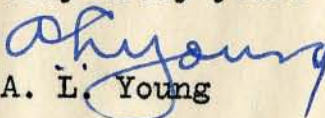
With a desire to help our own situation and to render, if possible, some service to other institutions having the same problem, I am sending this letter and questionnaire to you and to approximately 150 other teachers college presidents, hoping that out of the answers and expressions from you and others, something tangible will result which may be of value to all of us in making the assembly a more profitable hour for our students.

If this study proves worth while I shall be glad to give back to you in some form any conclusions which seem helpful.

No mention will be made of your institution in this study. Please feel free to express your convictions as they relate to the assembly in any way that you see fit.

A self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience in answering this questionnaire.

Very truly yours

  
A. L. Young



July 31, 1933

Mr. A. L. Young,  
Box 374,  
Peabody College,  
Nashville, Tenn.

My dear Mr. Young:

Your esteemed favor is received. I hope it will be satisfactory to you for me to answer your questionnaire in the form of a letter rather than otherwise. I think I can make it more helpful to you. I am giving the following information:

Our Assembly is held at 9:30 each morning five days in the week. Thirty minutes is given to the Assembly hour during the first nine months of the year and forty-five minutes is given to the Assembly hour during the Summer School. The President of the institution is the presiding officer and is also responsible for all of the programs. We do not have an Assembly Committee. The President usually makes up the program two weeks ahead and sometimes for a longer time. The programs are arranged in such a way as to enable the institution to change some of them, provided it has an opportunity to secure some outstanding outside talent. We do not have student representatives in working out the program. We would like to make each program in a certain sense inspirational, informational, recreational and religious; however we put emphasis upon the inspirational programs. We believe it is hard to separate the inspirational and informational, as well as the religious and have a program that will have contagion in it. The programs are rendered by the President, the faculty members and quite frequently the students are responsible for the program. We put much emphasis on music, student interpretations of the scriptures and literature. We frequently call on the Department of Physical Education to give a program, the different clubs, the band, orchestra and other organizations.

Compulsory attendance is not required as we do not believe in this, but our Assembly Hall is crowded each morning; in fact there is not enough room to take care of the student-body at times. The biggest thing in the institution is the morning Assembly hour. Compulsory attendance is not required of the faculty, but there is a hundred per cent attendance. While I have never revealed such an attitude, I would not be interested.



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in the re-employment of a member of the faculty who did not attend Chapel.

We make announcements in our Assembly but limit them to a minimum, making only such announcements as are vital and of an emergency nature. No funds are provided for assembly programs. We believe the chief weakness of assembly programs is that they are made too mechanical, too formal and too stereotyped--they lack vitality, interest and contagion. No credit is given for Assembly attendance. We do not believe in this. We feel that the Assembly hour should be of a nature that the student should regard it as a privilege and opportunity to attend. Our student-body attends because the students feel they need the inspiration and spirit, as well as the encouragement they receive and in order to be able to do more effective work and get a vision of an objective.

If I had time I would give you a synopsis of the programs which have been given during the entire year, but this would require too much time. I am a great believer in the Assembly hour and cannot see how a school can have unity, cooperation and success without it.

Very truly yours

HIC:F