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Bowling Green Ministerial Association - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 141)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Bowling Green Ministerial Association was re-organized on 8 September 1919; it is unclear when the organization was originally founded. The minutes for the 8 September 1919 meeting indicate: “It was decided to reorganize at once. Dr. Houze automatically retired as President, and Dr. Galloway automatically succeeded him as President.” No articles of incorporation nor a constitution for the organization has survived. The 1960 revised membership form does indicate the two-fold purpose of the organization: “to provide an opportunity for ministerial fellowship and understanding and to consider and concert measures by which the ministers can cooperate effectively for the interests of the Kingdom, and the good of the community, in a spirit of brotherhood and under democratic forms and methods.” The group was clearly ecumenical and included representatives from the Catholic Church as well as most of the mainline Protestant denominations.

The Association did meet after 1978 and continued to sponsor ecumenical holiday services, but the organization weakened and minutes were not kept. It is believed that the organization finally ceased to exist in the late-1990s.

COLLECTION NOTES

Box 1 contains record books of the Association in five year periods. These books contained all the Association records in a chronological format, including minutes, news clippings, reports, and financial records.

The items in Box 2 came at a later date and were not kept in record books as had the material in Box 1. This allowed the collection to be arranged in a more typical format by record type: membership information, minutes, correspondence, financial records, and miscellaneous. Within these record types, the materials are arranged chronologically. Of particular interest is the group’s participation in a voluntary hospital chaplaincy program, its leadership role in conducting ecumenical Thanksgiving and Easter services, shared responsibility for a Sunday morning radio program, limited social work within the community, and its sponsorship of a summer Vespers program at Western Kentucky State College in the 1950s (Folder 11). The group also sponsored programming or advocated for alcohol and drug abuse counseling, removal of pinball machines,
cession of gambling at the County Fair, prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages, improved religious television programming, decency and modesty in movies, and other social issues. The group’s work can easily be traced through the minutes and the correspondence. The Vespers programs held in the 1950s were a popular summer activity. Although held on the campus of Western Kentucky State College, the entire meeting

The minutes indicate that the group met monthly, but enjoyed only sporadic meetings during the summer months. Minutes are occasionally missing, but there is a full run from 1919 to 1978

SHELF LIST

**BOX 1**  Bowling Green Ministerial Association – Minutes and business records  1919-1953; n.d.  7 items

Folder 1  Descriptive inventory  1 item

Folder 2  Record book
(each record book contains minutes, clippings, programs and correspondence)  1919-1924  1 item

Folder 3  Record book  1930-1935  1 item

Folder 4  Record book  1936-1939  1 item

Folder 5  Record book  1940-1945  1 item

Folder 6  Record book  1946-1949  1 item

Folder 7  Record book  1950-1953  1 item

**BOX 2**  Bowling Green Ministerial Association – Minutes and business records  1942-1981; n.d.  12 items

Folder 1  Membership forms filled out  1963-1976  57 items

Folder 2  Membership lists  1957-1978  14 items

Folder 3  Minutes  1954-1960  57 items

Folder 4  Minutes  1963-1969  78 items

Folder 5  Minutes  1970-1978  76 items

Folder 6  Correspondence, reports, etc.  1954-1969  48 items

Folder 7  Correspondence, reports, etc.  n.d.  62 items
Folder 8  Correspondence, reports, etc.  1975  49 items
Folder 9  Correspondence, reports, etc.  1976-1978  48 items
Folder 10 Bank account books  1942-1952  3 items
Folder 11  Vesper services information  n.d.  71 items
Folder 12  Miscellaneous- forms, programs, letterhead, news clippings, etc.  1955-1981  20 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS  BOWLING Green Ministerial  1919-1953
141 Association – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Governing documents, minutes, financial
Records, correspondence and program material
From the Bowling Green [Kentucky] Ministerial alcohol
Association.
1½ boxes. 19 folders. 590 items. Originals.
2006.205.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Abortions – Relating to   B2,F9
Alcoholism – Relating to   B2,F8
Barrows, E. N.   B2,F9
Bowling Green Warren County Welfare Center – Relating to   B2,F6
Britt, James – Correspondence   B2,F6-8
Carter, Reed McCune, d. 2004– Correspondence   B2,F6-8
Church Women United – Bowling Green – Mentioned   B2,F6
Churches – Bowling Green – Relating to
Clergy – Relating to
Community Development – Bowling Green – Comments about   B2,F9
Compulsory military service – Comments about   B2,F7
Drugs – Relating to   B2,F8
Durham, Bob – Relating to   B2,F7-8
Hayden, Lucian P., 1924-2001   B2,F9
Holiday Inn – Bowling Green – Relating to   B2,F6
Hospital chaplains – Relating to B2,F7-9,12
Hospitals – Bowling Green – Comments about B2,F9
Letterheads – WKCT (Radio station) – Bowling Green B2,F8
Moving pictures – Comments about B2,F6
Oldham, Richard P., d. 2014 – Correspondence B2,F6-7
Pinball machines – Comments about B2,F7
Religion – Bowling Green – Relating to
Religious institutions – Bowling Green
Religion on television – Mentioned B2,F6
Salvation Army – Bowling Green – Relating to B2,F7
Schools – Bowling Green – Comments about B2,F7
Social work – Bowling Green B2,F6,8-9
Surface, H. Howard, Jr., d. 2011 B2,F7
Warren County Anti-Liquor Association – Comments about B2,F6
Western Kentucky University – Relating to B2,F9

SEE or SEE ALSO CARDS

Movies
See:
  Moving pictures

Religious organizations
See:
  Religious institutions

Jeffrey 07/29/2013