

Guide to the Tommie L. Watkins Jr. Papers, 2000-2005.

Collection Number: 7737

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
Cornell University Library

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Date

completed:
Feb. 7, 2006

EAD encoding:

Peter Martinez, Feb.
2006
Rima Turner, Feb.
2006

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:

Tommie L. Watkins Jr. papers, 2000-2005.

Collection Number:

7737

Creator:

Tommie L. Watkins Jr.

Quantity:

0.3 cubic ft.

Forms of Material:

N/A

Repository:

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library

Abstract:

Papers of Rev. Tommie Lee Watkins Jr., documenting his interaction with the U.S. Navy regarding their demand that he repay tuition. During the three-year administrative process, Watkins asserted that the Navy's insistence that he repay tuition when it had excused numerous cases involving white students was influenced by racism. His papers also document his views on communities of faith

and the inclusion and affirmation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, those questioning their sexuality, people living with AIDS, and their families. Includes correspondence, essays, clippings, and a videorecording of a service at Miami, Florida's Greater Bethel A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal Church) Church on April 15, 2001, where Watkins worked as program director for HIV/AIDS prevention education.

Language:

Collection material in English

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ordained a Baptist minister in 1991, Watkins served as youth minister at the First Missionary Baptist Church of Hueytown in Bessemer, Alabama. He attended the United States Naval Academy from 1994 to 1997, where he was elected class president and earned the rank of battalion commander. In 1997, he resigned after allegations of homosexual activity. He finished his degree at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, and has worked as a business analyst, math teacher, and health educator focusing on gay youth and communities of color. In 2000, the South Florida Conference of the AME Church denied his application for ordination as an A.M.E. itinerent deacon (the lowest level of itinerent minister). He founded the Ministry of Reconciliation, which is an inclusive and affirming education and worship experience primarily for Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning persons, Persons Living With AIDS (PLWAs), and their family members. In 2005, Watkins published a book about his life experiences titled "Living Out Loud."

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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SUBJECTS

Names:

Watkins, Tommie L., Jr.

African Methodist Episcopal Church--Florida.

Subjects:

African-American gays--United States.
Gay clergy--United States.
Homosexuality--Religious aspects.
Homophobia--United States.
Race discrimination--United States.

Places:

United States--Armed Forces--Gays--Government policy.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Cite As:

Tommie L. Watkins Jr. papers, # 7737. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

RELATED MATERIALS

Collecting program: Human Sexuality Collection

CONTAINER LIST

Date	Description	Container
2004	Resume and Colin Higgins Courage Award certificate of recognition	Box 1, Folder 1
2000	"Story of Reconciliation," paper by Watkins	Box 1, Folder 2
2000	Correspondence re: debt to the Navy	Box 1, Folder 3
n.d.	Person, Mitch letter to editor about Watkins' debt to Navy	Box 1, Folder 4
2000	Wilmington Post	Box 1, Folder 5
2001	"Tommy Watkins: Faith Warrior," article in <i>Venus</i> and readers' responses	Box 1, Folder 6
2002	<i>Out and About</i> (Univ. of Colorado at Boulder)	Box 1, Folder 7
ca. 2000	Drawings	Box 1, Folder 8
2000-2005	Drawings	Box 1, Folder 9
2003	Comic event poster	Box 1, Folder 10
2001	Program for Bethel A.M.E. Church service	Box 1 v. 722
2001	Tommie Watkins Articles of <i>Venus</i>	Box 2, Folder 1
2006	Website Article and Bulletin Full Truth Ministries	Box 2, Folder 2
2007	Drawings	Box 2, Folder 3
2008	Drawings and Articles	Box 2, Folder 4
2008	Drawings	Box 2, Folder 5

2009 es

Box 2, Folder 6

2009 es

Box 2, Folder 7