

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Philip C. Landers Papers

RG 191



Compiled by Kathryn I. Lund and Martha Lund Smalley

2004

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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 191

CREATOR: Landers, Philip C.

TITLE: Philip C. Landers Papers

DATES: 1913-1972

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, collected materials, and biographical material document the life and work of Philip C. Landers. Landers and his wife, Ethna, both pursued careers in Christian education. Landers was a founder of the "University of Life" movement in Minnesota. He later worked for the International Council of Religious Education in Chicago, which merged into the National Council of Churches, based in New York. He coordinated the nationwide introduction and interpretation of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible in the early 1950s.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.191>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.191>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Laurence G. Landers, 1995.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Philip C. Landers Papers (RG 191), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1897 January 28	○ Philip Corliss Landers born in Middletown, MA, second son of the Reverend and Mrs. Warren Prince Landers
1915-1918	○ Following graduation from high school in Brockton, MA worked for shoe company and for Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society
1918-1919	○ Served in U.S. Army
1919-1922	○ Worked for Prudential Life Insurance Company in Brockton
1922-1927	○ Attended Boston University School of Religious Education for undergraduate and graduate degrees; served as Director of Religious Education in area church
1927	○ Married Ethna V. Jones, who also graduated from the Boston University School of Religious Education and remained active as a Director of Christian Education in various churches throughout her husband's career.
1927-1930	○ Served as Director of Christian Education at Trinity Methodist Church in Springfield, MA
1930-1936	○ On staff of Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, Minneapolis, MN. Began the University of Life program.
1936-1941	○ PCL began work for Minnesota Council of Religious Education (later Council of Churches). Set up interdenominational Leadership Training Schools across the state and interdenominational Universities of Life. Started the Faribault Summer School of Christian Education.
1941-1950	○ Director of The Laymen's Crusade for Christian Education and Director of Public Relations for the International Council of Religious Education in Chicago. Became Associate General Secretary in 1946.
1950-1962	○ ICRE merged with seven other national interdenominational organizations to form the National Council of Churches in 1950. PCL one of three Administrative Secretaries of the NCC, based at Interchurch Center in New York, overseeing Treasury Office, Publications Office, Personnel Office, Business Office, and Fund Raising.
1952	○ Received honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
1952	○ Coordinated the nationwide introduction of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible
1962	○ Retired to Minnesota, with winter home in Brownsville, TX; provided volunteer service to Walker Community Church and Union Congregational Church in Hackensack, MN.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains valuable documentation of the life and work of a layperson who worked for state and national interdenominational organizations and was instrumental in establishing the University of Life religious education program. The documentation in this collection related to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible complements the archives of the Standard Bible Committee found in Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 70.

Series I, Correspondence, contains letters to and from Philip C. Landers during the course of his career. Series II and III relate to programs that were central to Landers' work - the University of Life and the introduction of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Series IV contains printed material related to various organizations with which Landers was involved. Series V contains detailed biographical information about Landers and his family.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence
- II. Related to University of Life
- III. Related to Revised Standard Version of the Bible
- IV. Collected Material
- V. Biographical Information

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

Of PCL

b. 1, f. 1 Correspondence alphabetized by sender/recipient: C - S

Other correspondence

b. 1, f. 2 Related to National Council of Churches of Christ 1962 Feb

Series II: University of Life

b. 1, f. 3	Beginnings - Hennepin Ave Methodist Church	1934-1935
b. 1, f. 4	Brochures from other Churches' schools	
b. 1, f. 5	Articles re University of Life	

Series III: Re. Revised Standard Version of Bible

b. 1, f. 6	Proposal for a Bible week honoring RSVB	1948 Mar
b. 1, f. 7	The Bible goes to Press	1952 Mar 19
b. 1, f. 8	RSVB observances	1952 Sep 28-Oct 5
b. 1, f. 9	Interpretation and promotion of RSVB	1945-1972
b. 1, f. 10	Report of Committee on Use and Understanding of the Bible	1955 Feb
b. 2, f. 11	Program Guide on Use and Understanding of Bible	1958 Nov
b. 2, f. 12	Minutes of Committee on Use and Understanding	1953-1957

Series IV: Collected Material

b. 2, f. 13	The Interchurch Center	1957-1960
b. 2, f. 14	The International Council of Religious Education	
b. 2, f. 15	Book: re. First Parish Congregational Church, Brockton, MA	1921
b. 2, f. 16	Book: Pastor's Worship Aids	1913-39
b. 2, f. 17	Books: Pastor's Worship Aids	
b. 3, f. 18	Book: <i>Adventure in Jade</i> by James Kraft; other articles by Kraft	1947, 1951
b. 3, f. 19	Misc. items	

Series V: Biographical Information

b. 3, f. 20	Personal Life History	
b. 3, f. 21	Hamline University Honorary Degree	1952
b. 3, f. 22	Certificate and Acknowledgements	
b. 3, f. 23	Photographs	
b. 3, f. 24	Newsclippings, press releases	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles

Bible -- Versions

Subjects

Christian education
Educators

Names

Landers, Philip C.

Corporate Body

International Council of Religious Education