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# Guide to the John B. Lindner Papers

RG 208



Compiled by Jeffrey Coutts and Martha Lund Smalley

2014, 2019

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: National Council of Churches US/USSR Church Relations Committee .....	6
Committee records .....	6
Programs and trips .....	6
Collected material .....	7
Audio Visual .....	8
Addendum, 2019 .....	8
Series II: "By Faith" Project .....	10
Planning/correspondence .....	10
Publications .....	10
Research materials .....	10
Typescript essays and papers .....	10
Published articles .....	10
Publications of organizations .....	10
Notes /tapes .....	11
Series III: Frontier Internship in Mission Program .....	12
Series IV: National Council of Churches Middle East policy .....	13
Series V: Ecumenical Formation / Activities .....	14
Series VI: Writings, Sermons, Talks .....	15
Series VII: Personal Items and Memorabilia .....	16
Selected Search Terms .....	17

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 208

**CREATOR:** Lindner, John B.

**TITLE:** John B. Lindner Papers

**DATES:** 1949-2016

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.5 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection documents selected activities of John B. Lindner, including his work with the National Council of Churches US/USSR Church Relations Committee, the "By Faith" project to prepare a video and book on the history of the ecumenical Christian student movement in the US, the Frontier Internship in Mission program, and projects related to Middle East policy and ecumenical formation.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.208>

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## 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.208>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John B. Lindner, 2008-2013, 2018

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

John B. Lindner Papers (RG 208), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John B. Lindner received a B.S. degree from Youngstown State University in 1970 and an M.Div from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1975. A minister in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., he spent over a quarter century providing leadership for international, ecumenical/interfaith programs of the PCUSA, the National Council of Churches (NCCCUSA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). He served as writer for the NCCCUSA's Middle East Policy and directed its program of US-USSR Church Relations. He served the WCC as director of planning and development for the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. Lindner served as Director of the Department for External Relations and Associate Dean for External Relations at Yale Divinity School from 2002 to 2013. Lindner is co-author of "By Faith: Christian Students Among the Cloud of Witnesses" (1991, Friendship Press) a history of the ecumenical Christian student movement in the US and co-issue editor of a special issue of the journal Theological Education (vol. 34, autumn 1997) on "Ecumenical Formation: A Methodology for a Pluralistic Age. The Case of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey".

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## Scope and Contents

This collection documents selected activities of John B. Lindner, focusing on his ecumenical and interfaith work during the 1980s and 1990s. It provides a valuable record of the "on-the-ground" operations of organizations and programs that sought to advance and document ecumenical work.

Series I documents Lindner's work on the National Council of Churches US/USSR Church Relations Committee from 1983 to 1988. Memos, reports, and audio-visual materials document the work of the committee and the trips to Russia and visits from Russian church figures that it sponsored. Background material provides an overview of US/USSR church relations.

Series II focuses on the preparation of a video and book on the history of the ecumenical student Christian movement in America. The video was prepared for a national student gathering sponsored by the Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministry in 1990. The book, "By Faith: Christian Students among the Cloud of Witnesses" (1991), was edited by John B. Lindner, Alva I. Cox, Jr., and Linda-Marie Delloff. Numerous former leaders and participants in ecumenical student Christian movements were contacted to provide reminiscences, essays, and consultation in preparation of "By Faith." See also the Alva I. Cox, Jr. Papers (YDSL Record Group No. 179).

Series III documents Lindner's work on the International Coordinating Committee of the Frontier Internship program. This material provides a valuable complement to documentation of the Frontier Internship in Mission program found in the Margaret Flory Papers (YDSL Record Group No. 86).

Series IV relates to Lindner's work in preparing the 1980 Middle East Policy Statement of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. while Series V documents Lindner's work in the area of ecumenical formation.

Series VI contains writings, sermons, and talks by Lindner. Additional writings and talks can be found amongst the topically arranged documentation in Series I - V.

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## Arrangement

- I. National Council of Churches US/USSR Church Relations Committee
- II. "By Faith" Project
- III. Frontier Internship in Mission Program
- IV. National Council of Churches Middle East Policy
- V. Ecumenical Formation

VI. Writings, Sermons, Talks  
VII. Personal Items and Memorabilia

## Collection Contents

### Series I: National Council of Churches US/USSR Church Relations Committee

Committee records		
b. 1, f. 1	Memos, minutes related to formation of committee	1982 Oct - 1984 Mar
b. 1, f. 2	Program proposal, report, memo	1984 Apr-Nov
b. 1, f. 3	Financial summary, proposal, memo, report	1984 Oct-Dec, n.m.
b. 1, f. 4	Memos, minutes related to budget	1985 Jan-Mar
b. 1, f. 5	Proposals, memos, agenda	1985 May-1986 Feb, n.d.
b. 1, f. 5-A	Correspondence between churches	1985 Nov-1988 May, n.d.
b. 3, f. 8	Other Committees: Children's Committee, Division of Overseas Ministries, U.S. U.S.S.R. Fit Committee	1983 Dec- 1986 Dec
b. 3, f. 9	Committee Collected Material: Report, Notes, Article, Newsletter	1974 May-1988 Feb
Programs and trips		
b. 1, f. 6	1983 Peacemaking Seminar to Russia: Schedule, Journal, Postcard	1982 Oct- 1983 May
b. 1, f. 7	1984 NCC Visit to Russia : Memos, Guidelines, Applications	1983 Dec- 1984 May
b. 1, f. 8	1984 Soviet Ecumenical Visit: Itinerary, List of members in delegation	1984 May
b. 1, f. 9	1985 Trip to Geneva Planning: Memos, Proposals, Program	1985 Oct-Nov, n.m.
b. 1, f. 10	1985 Trip to Geneva: Memos, Programs from event, Statement of church leaders, Copy of sermon	1985 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 11	1985 Trip to Russia: Memos related to budget, Schedules	1985 Mar-May
b. 1, f. 12	1986 Trip to Russia: Memos, Schedules	1985 Jul-1986 Nov
b. 1, f. 13	1987 U.S. Soviet Summit Washington D.C.: Brochures, Prayer Pamphlets	1987 Dec.
b. 1, f. 14	1987 Trip to Russia: Schedules, Participant Information	1987 Mar-Jul
b. 1, f. 15	1988 Trip to Russia: Memos, Participant Information	1987 Dec-1988 Mar, n.m.
b. 1, f. 16	1988 Trip to Russia: Participant Information, Memos, Questionnaires, Schedules	1988 Apr-May

Programs and trips (continued)

b. 1, f. 17	1988 Russia Trip: Participant Information, Briefing Manual, Schedules	1988 Jun, n.m.
b. 1, f. 18	Russia Trips Background Material 1984-1987: Budget Information, History of U.S. U.S.S.R. Church Relations	1984 n.m.-1986 Jun
b. 1, f. 19	Russia Trips Background Material 1987: Reports	1987 Feb
b. 1, f. 20	Russia Trips Background Materials 1992: Participant Information	1992 n.m.
b. 1, f. 21	Russia Trips Background Materials No Date: Song Books, Participants Directories, Russian Language Primer	n.d.
b. 1, f. 22	Russia Trips Background Information: Participant Information, participant manual	
b. 3, f. 10	John Lindner Russia Notes: Personnel Information, Scheduling	n.d.
b. 3, f. 11	John Lindner Russia Notes: Participant Information, Scheduling	n.d.
Collected material		
b. 2, f. 1	Articles: 1983-1984	1983 Sep-1984 Dec
b. 2, f. 2	Articles: 1984-1985	1984 n.m.-1985 Nov
b. 2, f. 3	Articles: 1986	1986 Oct, n.m.
b. 2, f. 4	Articles: 1986-1988	1986 Mar-1988 Mar.
b. 2, f. 5	Magazines: 1982	1982 Jan, n.m.
b. 2, f. 6	Magazines: 1982	1982 Jul-Oct
b. 2, f. 7	Magazines: 1985	1985, n.m.
b. 2, f. 8	Magazines: 1987	1987 May-Dec
b. 2, f. 9	Pictures, Brochures of Russia 1981	1981
b. 2, f. 10	Pictures, Brochures of Russia 1981	1981 n.m.
b. 2, f. 11	Pictures, Brochures of Russia: 1982	1982 n.m.
b. 2, f. 12	Pictures, Brochures of Russia: 1982	1982, n.m.
b. 2, f. 13	Report U.S. Russia Relations: 1985	1985 n.m.
b. 2, f. 14	Friendship Press Collected Material: Maps of Russia, USSR Christianity Magazine	1987-1988 n.m.
b. 2, f. 15	Friendship Press Collected Materials: Children's Book: Christianity in USSR, Guide to Book	1987 n.m.
b. 2, f. 16	Miscellaneous Collected Material: Church Pamphlets, Pictures of Russia	1983, n.m.

Collected material (continued)

b. 2, f. 17	Newspaper Articles: 1974-1984	1974 n.m.- 1984 Feb
b. 2, f. 18	Newspaper Articles: No Date	n.d.
b. 3, f. 1	Prayer Books: 1980	1980, n.m.
b. 3, f. 2	Orthodox Christianity Collected Material: 1971-1979	1971-1979, n.m.
Audio Visual		
b. 3, f. 3	Artifacts: Russian Calendar 1988, Pins	1988, n.m.
b. 3, f. 4	Pictures of Russia Trips: Contact Negatives	n.d.
b. 3, f. 5	Pictures of Russia Trips: Contact Negatives	n.d.
b. 3, f. 6	Pictures of Russia Trips: Contact Negatives	
b. 3, f. 7	Pictures of Russia Trips: Developed Pictures, Slides 1984-1985	1984 Jun-1985 Dec
b. 3, f. 12	Beta Tape Unlabeled	n.d.
b. 4, f. 1	Discovering Our Oneness: Audio Cassette Tape and Photo Negatives	n.d.
b. 4, f. 2	Peacemaking Discovering Our Oneness Videotape	n.d.
b. 4, f. 3	Sights and Sounds of the Churches of the U.S.S.R.: Audio Cassette Tape and Photo Negatives	1987 Jun
Addendum, 2019		
b. 9, f. 1	Committee records; sermons by Lindner related to USSR visit; project proposal; CPC Consultation on Disarmament (Budapest)	1983
b. 9, f. 2	Trip briefing speech by Lindner; notes from Friendship Press Board speech; Program Coordinator's Report; reports on US/USSR program	1984
b. 9, f. 3	Committee records; report; pamphlet: "An Ecumenical Experiment in Human Rights" by Theo Tschuy	1985
b. 9, f. 4	Letter of resignation; pamphlet: "One Thousand Years: Stories from the History of Christianity in the USSR 988-1988" by J. Martin Bailey	1986-1987
b. 9, f. 5	"Perestroika: some preliminary comments" by Ninan Koshy (WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs); typescript report on relationships between NCC and church of the Soviet Union 1956-1988	1988
b. 9, f. 6	Report of NCC delegation to USSR; Coordinating Committee recommendations; article by Lindner: "The Reemergence of the National Council of Churches"	1989-1990
b. 9, f. 7	Documents from the files of Barbara Green and Alan Geyer, including regarding "Choose Life" gatherings, 1980 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, US-Soviet relations	1979-1991
b. 9, f. 8	<i>MIRROR</i> newsletter of NCC Europe office; Informational Bulletin, Department for External Church Relations, Moscow Patriarchate	1992-1994



Addendum, 2019 (continued)

b. 9, f. 9

Collected articles and notes

2011, 2016

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**Series II: "By Faith" Project**

Planning/correspondence		
b. 5, f. 1	Summaries of project, grant proposal	ca. 1990
b. 5, f. 2	Correspondence with Lilly Endowment, potential project participants, draft outlines	1990 Jul-Aug
b. 5, f. 3	Correspondence with contributors	1990 Sep-Oct
b. 5, f. 4	Correspondence, consultation at Stony Point Center	1990 Nov - 1991 Jan
b. 5, f. 5	Correspondence, report to Lilly Endowment	1991 Feb - May
b. 5, f. 6	Regarding use and study guides, letters of thanks to contributors,	1991 Jun-Nov
b. 5, f. 7	Notes, budget	1990-1991
Publications		
b. 5, f. 8	Draft scripts for video	1991
b. 5, f. 9	Early drafts for introduction and chapter 1 of "By Faith: Christian Students among the Cloud of Witness"	ca. 1991
b. 5, f. 10	Early drafts of chapter 2	1991
b. 5, f. 11	Early drafts of chapters 3-5	
b. 5, f. 12	Early drafts of chapters 6-7	
b. 5, f. 13	Bound copy of chapter drafts	1991
b. 6, f. 1	Working proofs	1991 Jun
b. 6, f. 2	Final page proofs	1991 Aug
b. 6, f. 3	Video: "By Faith: Christian Students Among the Cloud of Witnesses" with study guide (VHS and DVD copies)	1992
b. 6, f. 4	Publicity materials and review by John Boonstra	ca. 1992
Research materials		
Typescript essays and papers		
b. 6, f. 5	By Robert Bilheimer, Adele Cloutier, John Deschner, Dan Dodson	
b. 6, f. 6	By Paul Hilmer, Jean Leshner, Edward Nestingen, William Roy, Richard Schaul, Steve Schomberg, Samuel Slie, Franklin Woo	
Published articles		
b. 6, f. 7	"Farewell UCM" by Leon Howell in "Humanity"; "The Student Christian Movement" in "Liberty and Justice for All: Racial Reform and the Social Gospel"	1969, 1990
Publications of organizations		

## Research materials &gt; Publications of organizations (continued)

b. 6, f. 8	Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministry, including program for "Celebrate" national ecumenical gathering of student Christian conference	1990
b. 7, f. 1	National Student Christian Federation	ca. 1960
b. 7, f. 2	Student Christian Movement (British)	1990
b. 7, f. 3	United Student Christian Council	1949
b. 7, f. 4	University Christian Movement	1967, 1969
b. 7, f. 5	World Student Christian Federation	1989-1990
Notes /tapes		
b. 7, f. 6	Typescript, including "Timeline of U.S. Campus Ministries History, 1706-1987"; "Alumni of the SCM in the United States"	ca. 1987
b. 7, f. 7	Miscellaneous handwritten notes by Lindner re. "In Faith" project	1990-1991
b. 7, f. 8	Interviews (3 audiocassette tapes)	ca. 1991

### Series III: Frontier Internship in Mission Program

b. 7, f. 9	International Coordinating Committee minutes, report	1990-1992
b. 7, f. 10	Officers' meeting, seminar in Geneva	1992 May
b. 7, f. 11	International Coordinating Committee meeting in Dakar, Senegal	1992 Sep
b. 8, f. 1	"Blueprints": A Journal of Frontier Interns in Mission (two issues)	1987-1988
b. 8, f. 2	"The Frontier Internship Program: A Ten-Year Evaluation, 1961-1971", including "An Overview After Ten Years" by Margaret Flory	1971
b. 8, f. 3	Reports related to internationalization of Frontier Internship program	1973-1974
b. 8, f. 4	Transcript of telephone conversation with Margaret Flory	no date
b. 9, f. 10	Report regarding Middle East Frontier Intern project; memo	1972, 1980

## Series IV: National Council of Churches Middle East policy

b. 8, f. 5	Regarding preparation of Middle East policy statement	1980 Feb-May
b. 8, f. 6	Policy Statement on the Middle East and Study Document	1980 Nov
b. 8, f. 7	Articles and background material	1978-1992
b. 9, f. 11	Articles and background material	1972-1979
b. 10, f. 1	Periodicals	1973-1978
b. 10, f. 2	World Council of Churches consultations	1974-1975
b. 10, f. 3	Middle East Council of Churches inaugural assembly	1974
b. 10, f. 4	Orthodox Education	1974-1975
b. 10, f. 5	Middle East Council of Churches	1974-1985
b. 10, f. 6	Research internship with Middle East Council of Churches	1975
b. 10, f. 7	Church in the Middle East background material	1968-1975
b. 10, f. 8	Regarding Israeli-Palestinian conflict	1972-1984
b. 11, f. 1	Middle East history, 1958-1979	
b. 11, f. 2	NCCC Middle East policy	1980-2016
b. 11, f. 3	Chicago Middle East task force	1974-1976
b. 11, f. 4	Civil war in Lebanon	1975-1976

**Series V: Ecumenical Formation / Activities**

b. 8, f. 8	Contents of special issue of <i>Theological Education</i> on ecumenical formation edited by Lindner	1997
b. 11, f. 5	"Bossey's Ecumenical Formation: A Methodology for a Pluralistic Age" by Heidi Hadsell and John Lindner; architectural renderings for Bossey addition	No date
b. 11, f. 6	Christian / Jewish relations	1960s - 1970s
b. 11, f. 7	McCormick Theological Seminary research project: "A Decade of Travel Seminars: A Retrospective Inventory" by John Lindner and Eileen Lindner	1987
b. 11, f. 8	Documents related to the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. compiled by Lindner for discussion by Presbyterian Church (USA)	1988
b. 11, f. 9	Paper for NCC Staff Conference: "Conciliar and Coalitional Ecumenism"; "Remarks to Presbyterian Staff Coordinating Cabinet" by John Lindner, Ecumenical Officer for the PCUSA to the NCC (1987-1992)	1988
b. 11, f. 10	Photo publication from World Council of Churches Seventh Assembly, Canberra	1991

**Series VI: Writings, Sermons, Talks**

This series contains a selection of materials written by Lindner. Additional papers and articles by Lindner are available in the topical groupings of Series I - V.

b. 11, f. 11	Writings: untitled paper related to University Christian Movement, which folded in 1969; poem; "From Mainline to Minority: 'Moderate' and 'Liberal' Protestant Churches in America"	1969, 1992
b. 11, f. 12	Sermons	1973-1998
b. 11, f. 13	Talks and addresses	1980s - 1990s

## **Series VII: Personal Items and Memorabilia**

b. 11, f. 14

Plaque presented to Lindner by YDS Racial Ethnic Reunion

2003

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## **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.

### **Subjects**

College students -- Religious life -- United States -- Societies, etc. -- History  
Interdenominational cooperation

### **Names**

Lindner, John B.