

Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations

Summary of Meeting - March 10, 1987

Present: Fr. Dean Dombroski, Sr. Diane Poplawski, Shirley Hill,  
Fr. Frank Vande Loo, Fr. George Lenzner, Reuel Robertson,  
Vern Doxtator, Fr. Dave Kiefer, Fr. James Dolan,  
Rev. Vernon Heim, Gordon McLester, Betty McLester,  
Joseph Danforth, Lloyd Powless, Bobbie Webster, and  
Fr. Jim Putman

1. The general goals were reviewed, revised, and reordered as enclosed.
2. The following process for reducing the goals to action was agreed upon:
  - a) Each goal will be "brainstormed" for specific actions. Any and all ideas will be catalogued.
  - b) After all goals have been brainstormed, each specific action/idea will be accepted or rejected on the basis of:
    - content
    - possibility
    - importance
  - c) The surviving actions/ideas will then be prioritized. Where do we begin?
  - d) Once we know where to begin and where we want to proceed, at least in the short term, we will strategize on implementing the actions/ideas.
3. We will brainstorm the Informational Goals (1-4) at our next meeting.
4. It was felt the Task Force should not expand its membership beyond the current roster at this time.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 31, 1987  
Holy Apostles Church  
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

- Fr. Jim Putman  
Facilitator

## Goals of Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations

### Information

1. To understand the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian nations and the nature of Indian treaties.
2. To understand the implications for the total community of the 1838 treaty between the United States Government and the Oneida Nation.
3. To identify the concerns and fears of the non-Indian community and the Indian community.
4. To identify the sources of current antagonisms and/or prejudices on the part of both the Indian and non-Indian communities.

### Action

5. To identify the strengths within the Indian and non-Indian communities upon which we can build.
6. To explore avenues of communication and understanding, and to structure vehicles of cooperation between Indians and the non-Indian Community.

INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON INDIAN/NON-INDIAN RELATIONS

Rev. Dean Dombroski  
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Work: 869-2214

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Green Bay, WI 54304  
499-1546

Rev. George Lenzner  
St. Joseph Parish  
145 St. Joseph Drive  
Oneida, WI 54155  
869-2244

Rev. David Kiefer  
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Diocese of Green Bay  
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Green Bay, WI 54305-5825

Rev. David Barrett  
St. Michael Parish  
P.O. Box 590  
Keshena, WI 54135

Rev. James Putman  
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Bobbie Webster  
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Oneida, WI 54155

Rev. Carson Timblin  
Oneida Methodist Church  
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De Pere, WI 54115

Rev. James Dolan  
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Oneida, WI 54155  
869-2565

Rev. Lonnie Johnson  
Assembly of God Church  
Highway 54  
Oneida, WI 54155

Rev. Vernon Heim  
Zion Lutheran Church  
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Rev. Keith Swanson  
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Work: 499-2011

Rev. Kenneth Kent  
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Reuel Robertson  
2370 Freedom Road  
De Pere, WI 54115  
869-2681

Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations

Summary of Meeting - March 31, 1987

Present: Gordon McLester, Sr. Diane Poplawski, Shirley Hill, Rev. Vernon Heim, Fr. Jim Putman, Fr. Jim Dolan, Reuel Robertson, Fr. Frank Vande Loo, Bobbie Webster

Newcomers: Suzanne Jones, Nancy Davison, Chester Zawicki, Evelyn Smith

1. Bobbie Webster explained her roll in getting Stephanie Reid on the story of our Task Force. Bobbie did not expect a feature story on us. In light of developments, she recommended a press release of some kind.
2. The following conclusions were reached about our dealings with the press:
  - a) A press release was written and approved to be sent to the press the next day (April 1). (cf. enclosed)
  - b) Jim Putman will be the temporary contact with the press.
  - c) It is important we do not become pressured by the press to produce.
  - d) We will conduct our meetings in two phases:
    - 1) The first part will be open to the press.
    - 2) The second part will be in executive session. This is the part of the meeting where we will brainstorm.
3. The following agenda for the next meeting was adopted:

Open: 1. Opening prayer - Pastor Heim  
2. Introduction of members  
3. Response to press release  
4. Review of process for achieving goals

Executive: 5. Brainstorming  
6. Adjournment
4. The Task Force agreed that Frank Vande Loo should invite Mike Weber to be a member.
5. The next meeting will be at Zion Lutheran Church in Oneida on Thursday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

-- Jim Putman  
Facilitator

Special Note: I turned over our press release to our Public Relations Department. They advised me not to send it out because of lack of content, which is exactly what I tried to tell the press in the first place. So, I have followed their advice. In the event I am contacted by the press again, I will use our release as a basis for my remarks. The Public Relations Department felt if I could include the roster of membership it would be worthwhile, but I did not feel I had the authorization to release that at this time.

Jim Putman

## INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON INDIAN/NON-INDIAN RELATIONS

The Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations is basically a parish based group of people representing different religious traditions. Members have been recommended by clergy, but the Task Force is open to other people who wish to come together with us in one heart and one mind to work out our common goals.

1. To understand the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian nations and the nature of Indian treaties.
2. To understand the implications for the total community of the 1838 treaty between the United States Government and the Oneida Nation.
3. To identify the concerns and fears of the non-Indian community and the Indian community.
4. To identify the sources of current antagonisms and/or prejudices on the part of both the Indian and non-Indian communities.
5. To identify the strengths within the Indian and non-Indian communities upon which we can build.
6. To explore avenues of communication and understanding, and to structure vehicles of cooperation between Indians and the non-Indian community.

We have not yet determined how we are going to meet these goals. All we have done so far is work out a process which is:

1. Each goal will be "brainstormed" for specific actions. Any and all ideas will be catalogued.
2. After all goals have been brainstormed, each specific action/idea will be accepted or rejected on the basis of:
  - content
  - possibility
  - importance
3. The surviving actions/ideas will then be prioritized. Where do we begin?
4. Once we know where to begin and where we want to proceed, at least in the short term, we will strategize on implementing the actions/ideas.

For further information, contact Father Jim Putman of the Social Concerns Office of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay or your local parish minister or priest.

INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON INDIAN/NON-INDIAN RELATIONS  
(Revised 3-31-87)

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Human Concerns

**TO: Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations**

**FROM: Jim Putman**

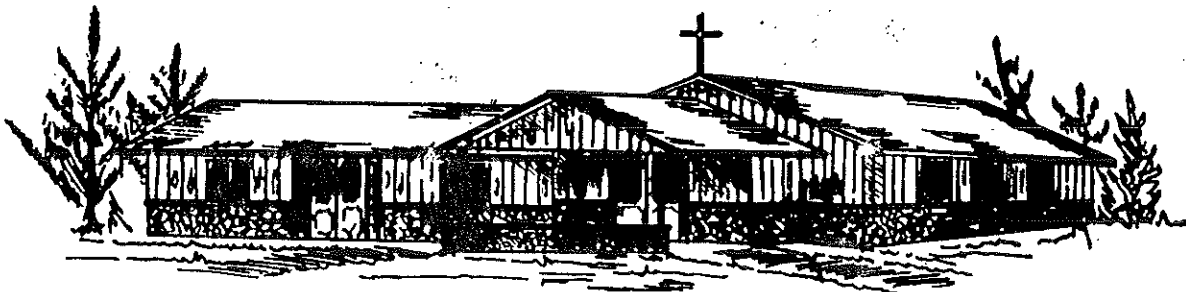
**DATE: April 16, 1987**

**Reminder: Meeting at Zion Lutheran Church  
Thursday, April 30  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Enclosed is a map of the Church location. Our agenda will be that which was included in the last meeting summary.

JP/tlw  
Enclosure



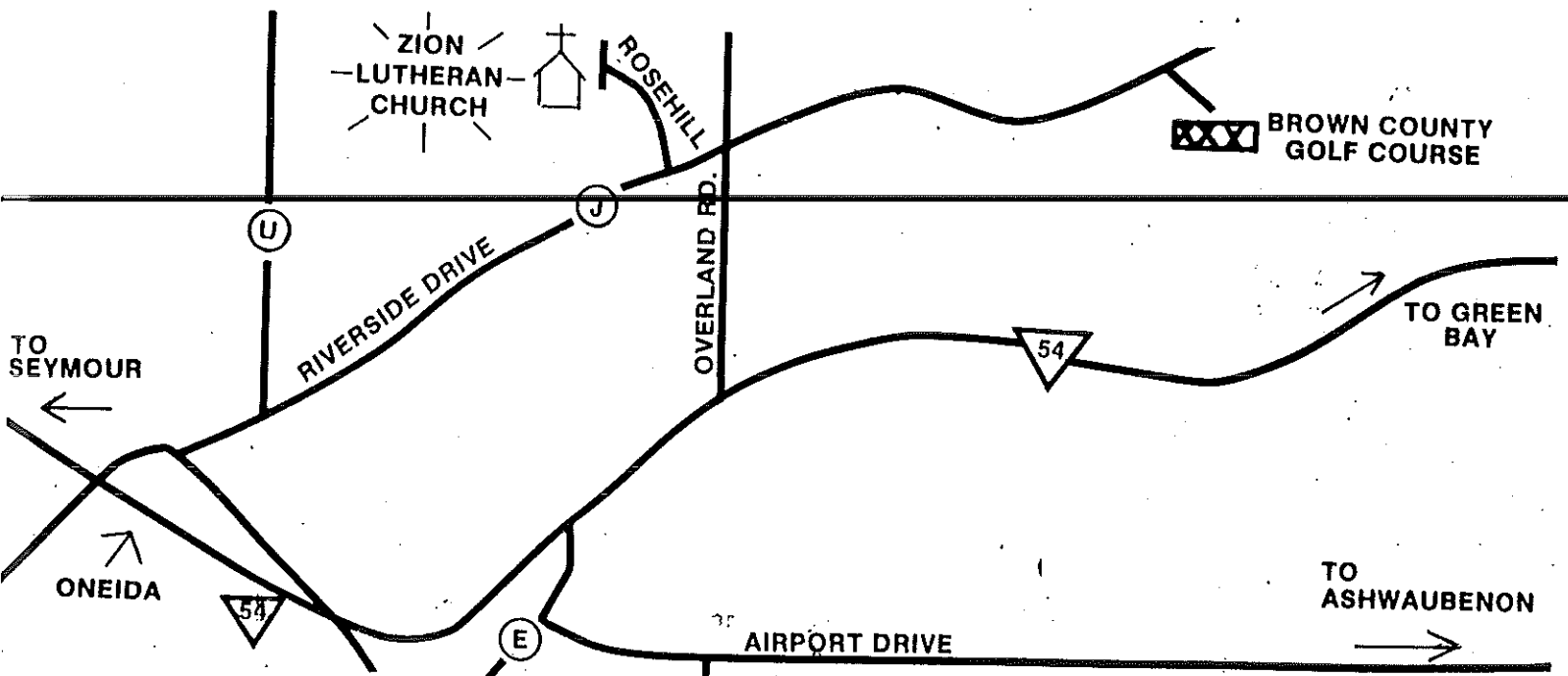
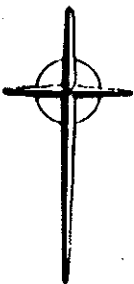


*Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

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# Better Indian, non-Indian relations at stake

By Stephanie Reid  
Of the Press-Gazette

An organized effort is underway to improve communication and understanding between Indian and non-Indian residents in the Green Bay area.

The Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations is the brainchild of the Rev. James Putman, director of the Green Bay Catholic Diocese's Office of Social Concerns.

"I think the Oneidas have extended themselves to be understood through projects in the business community," said Putman, who is also task force chairman. "This is simply an attempt by the religious community to be a helper in this process."

The 20-member group is currently made up of local clergy and Oneida tribal members, but Putman

## Interfaith Task Force goals are outlined

The following are the goals of the Interfaith Task Force on Indian/Non-Indian Relations:

- 1. To understand the relationship between the federal government and Indian nations and the nature of Indian treaties.
- 2. To understand the implications for the total community of the 1838 treaty between the U.S. government and the Oneida nation.
- 3. To identify the concerns and fears of the non-Indian and Indian communities.

said he hopes to get more non-Indian residents to participate.

The task force held its first meeting earlier this month and has scheduled one for next Tuesday, Putman said.

The idea for the group grew out of the diocese's concern about treaty issues and the relations between the Indian and non-Indian commu-

- 4. To identify the sources of current antagonisms or prejudices or both on the part of both the Indian and non-Indian communities.
- 5. To identify the strengths within the Indian and non-Indian communities upon which we can build.
- 6. To explore avenues of communication and understanding and to structure vehicles of cooperation between Indians and non-Indians.

ing, which the task force could provide, he said.

The lawsuit asks the court to find that the 65,650-acre Oneida reservation established in an 1838 federal treaty no longer exists and that Oneida jurisdiction is limited to the 2,741 acres that the federal government holds in trust for the tribe.

Putman said the jurisdiction suit pending before Judge Thomas Curran in U. S. District Court in Milwaukee against nine Oneida tribal leaders prompted him to ask others about the need for such an effort.

Once the issue is settled in court there will be a need for vehicles of communication and understanding.

Brown and Outagamie counties, their jurisdiction commission, the city of Green Bay and the towns of Hobart and Oneida filed the suit in 1985.

Putman emphasized that although the task force is only in the preliminary stages, the group has identified several preliminary goals aimed at strengthening communications between the two communities.

The task force plans to develop strategies for accomplishing its objectives in later meetings, Putman said.

The Rev. Frank Vande Loo of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Parish said at this early stage it is difficult to predict how successful the task force will be.

"We look at it as a very humble task," said Vande Loo. "We don't

Please see Oneida/B-2

## Oneida

have a glorious vision of this being a great savior. It's just a small effort to help build community relations."

The Rev. James Dolan of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in Oneida said honesty will be a major key.

"I think it can be a success if the people who are going to participate are open to explore issues and are honest and upright," he said.

Dolan said the task force will deal initially with relations between the Oneidas and non-Indians who live within the boundaries of the 1838 treaty.

He said he has not heard concerns direct from non-Indians in

that segment of Green Bay, but is sure they exist.

But within his largely Oneida congregation the desire to reach some understanding abounds, he said.

"They want to always be good neighbors and understood as the people they are and they haven't been given that kind of opportunity," Dolan said.

Shirley Hill, United Amerindian Center administrator and an Oneida tribal member, said most of the hard feelings between the two communities stem from the Indians' misunderstanding of white residents and vice versa.

She said the task force can go far in helping to alleviate that problem.

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