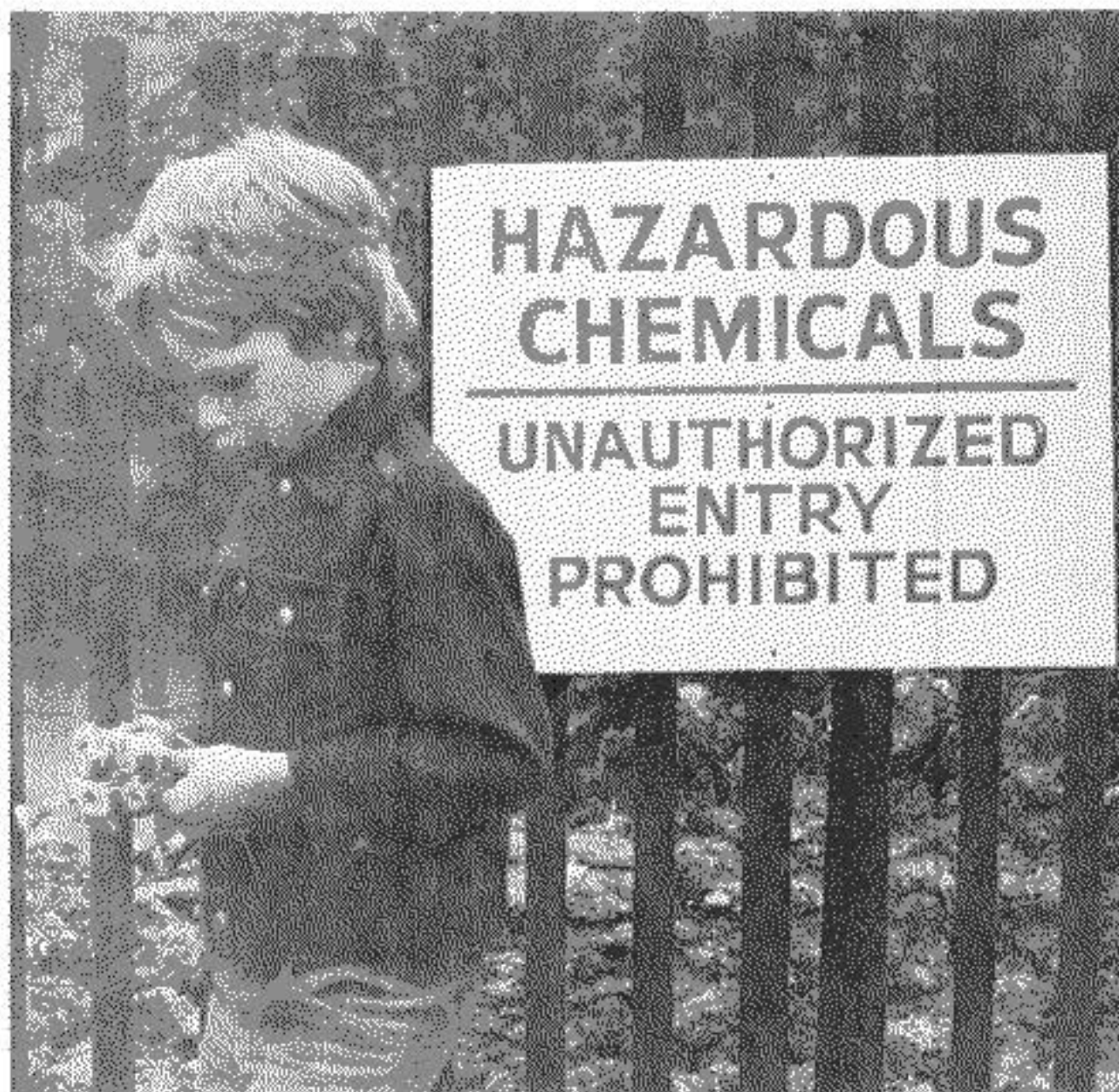


An INTERFAITH response
in MINISTRY to people
affected by hazardous waste




WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH.

Proverbs 29:18

**ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE
OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.**

259 Fourth Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14303
(716) 284-0026

· EARTH PLEDGE ·



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE EARTH
AND ALL ITS SACRED PARTS,
ITS WATER, LAND AND LIVING THINGS
AND ALL ITS HUMAN HEARTS.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO ALL LIFE
AND PROMISE I SHALL CARE
TO LOVE AND CHERISH ALL ITS GIFTS
WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

Ecumenical Task Force
of the
Niagara Frontier

259 Fourth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303
716 • 284-0026

June 17, 1986

Dear Friends:

This past year has been a wonderful one for me. My position on the Board of Directors allowed me to meet many wonderful people and it gave me opportunities to offer leadership and direction to our unique and highly blessed organization, the Ecumenical Task Force.

My sincerest words and prayers of thanks goes to my colleagues on the Board of Directors, especially Rudi Gelsey, Jim Brewster, and Terri Mudd, who shared with me the tasks of the Executive Committee. I offer a personal standing ovation for our talented and dedicated staff, Sister Margeen Hoffmann, Barbara Hanna, and Pat Brown.

Governor Cuomo inadvertently spoke of the Ecumenical Task Force as a "missionary group" when we were invited to Albany to meet with him last summer. When our meeting was finished, I believe that the Governor knew that we were not "missionaries", but that we had a clear mission: In the name of God and for the cause of social justice, the Ecumenical Task Force spoke to him about the needs of our New York State communities which have been hurt/damaged by hazardous waste. I pray that the Ecumenical Task Force will carry its message to many more States and Governors and Legislators and to people who have to know and feel the needs of our people who suffer most from hazardous waste in our communities.

I thank God for the Ecumenical Task Force. It has opened up a new world and vision for me. I have been deeply honored to be its President.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
Rev. Dr. Joseph Levesque, C.M.

JL:bh

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Niagara University, N.Y. 14109

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Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church,
Niagara Falls, N.Y. Rev. Gelsey represents
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Rev. Dr. James N. Brewster
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Dr. Brewster represents the Western New York
United Methodist Conference on the ETF Board.

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Mrs. Therese Mudd
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Lewiston, N.Y. 14092

Mrs. Mudd represents St. Peter's Roman
Catholic Church, Lewiston, N.Y., on the ETF
Board. Mrs. Mudd is a member of the New York
State Superfund Management Board.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ETF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger A Cook, M.S.
1515 West River Road
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Mr. Cook represents the Western Association of the New York Conference United Church of Christ on the ETF Board. He is a Lecturer at State University College at Buffalo, and Executive Director of the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & health.

Right Rev. Msgr. Richard Graeber
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Buffalo, N.Y. 14217

Msgr. Graeber serves as liaison between the ETF and the Diocese of Buffalo and the Peace & Justice Commission of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Mrs. Joann Hale
3331 Wallace
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Mrs. Hale represents the United Church of Christ on the ETF Board. She is a member of the Riverside-Salem United Church of Christ, Grand Island, N.Y. Mrs. Hale is a member of the Love Canal Homeowners Association and a Trustee of the Love Canal Medical Trust Fund, Inc.

Rev. Cyril S. Hurnyak
25 Fairview Ct.
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Rev. Hurnyak is Pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls. He represents the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) on the ETF Board.

Rev. Albert R. Laese
1920 - 18th. St. at Cleveland
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14305

Rev. Laese is Pastor of St. Paul Calvary Lutheran Church. He is a representative to the ETF Board of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Niagara Council of Churches.

Rev. Donald L. Lawrence
424 Burt Circle
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092

Rev. Lawrence is Pastor of First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y. He serves as representative of the American Baptist Churches of the Niagara Frontier on the ETF Board.

John A. Lynch, C.S.W.
1641 Lake Road
Youngstown, N.Y. 14174

Mr. Lynch, former Director of the Niagara County office Catholic Charities, has represented Catholic Charities Buffalo Diocese on the ETF Board.

Sr. Joan F. Malone, OSF
2278 Main Street
Buffalo, N. Y. 14214

Sister Joan is a representative of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility on the ETF Board.

Rev. John R. McClester
2450 Main Street
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214

Rev. McClester is the Associate Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western New York. He is a representative of Presbyterian Church (USA) on the ETF Board.

Rev. Guy Peek
150 William Street
Youngstown, N.Y. 14174

Fr. Peek is Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, New York., and is a representative of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York on the ETF Board.

Rev. Joseph Power, OSFS, Ph.D.
R.C. Priest
Center of Renewal
Stella Niagara, N.Y. 14144

Fr. Power is an At-Large Member of ETF Board.

The Rev. Norman Timmermann
2715 Cleveland Ave.
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Rev. Timmermann is Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and is a representative of the Eastern District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to the ETF Board.

Rev. Knight H. Washburn
166 - 59th. Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Rev. Washburn is Minister of Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y. He is a representative of the Presbytery of Western New York on the ETF Board.

STAFF
ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F.
Executive Director
Kinship Place
4421 Lower River Road
Stella Niagara, N.Y. 14144

Sister Margeen is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota. She holds a Masters Degree in Social Planning/Community Organization from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

Barbara G. Hanna
Executive Assistant
3288 Benhil Drive
North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120

Barbara is a member of St. James United Methodist Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y., and serves as Chairman of its Council On Ministries. She has been a member of the staff since the beginning of ETF in 1979. Barbara also served as Chairman of the Love Canal Task Force for the former Wesley United Methodist Church. She serves as ETF staff liaison to the Niagara Council of Churches.

Patricia A. Brown
Resource Center Manager
8421 Munson Avenue
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Pat is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is a former resident of Love Canal and was a Volunteer Advocate from the beginning of the task force and became a member of the staff in 1981.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

All your strength is in your union
All your danger is in discord;
Therefore be at peace henceforward
And as brothers (sisters) live together.
-The Song of Hiawatha (1855) pt.1

In celebrating and reviewing the mission and tasks of the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (ETF) for the past twelve months of 1985-86, the wise words of our native brother who, like us, lived along the shores of the Great Lakes, take on new and cogent meaning.

As we have said elsewhere, when we began the unique task of the ETF in 1979, little did we know how long it would be or how far we would be taken to find the answers to some questions.

We are still searching for many of those answers and we are convinced of the still urgent need to go forward with the task. Often, we have been heartened in the arduous search to know that we are not alone on the journey even though there are set backs, delays and detours.

Through the efforts of so many who have supported us in a variety of ways, we have been able to design and forge into practical action the challenge for a "reverence for all creation."

I believe there exists a bond of roles that must be the major thrust of our ministry to people and the environment: the technical relationship ~~and theological~~ stewardship of humans in the environment.

There are individual and collective stewardship values in environmental protection. I believe it is the unique and responsible role of the religious community, represented by the ETF, to foster and find ways for the implementation of rediscovering and reclaiming our fundamental connectedness to the earth and to one another. We must all become keenly aware, as Chief Seattle, a native American orator reminds us, of the interconnectedness of life for, "What befalls the earth, befalls the children of the earth." Our politics, economics, religion, lifestyles, and culture all too often bear evidence that we have forgotten this connection foundational to our human-earth relationship.

It is my hope that the meaning which underlies our use of the paradox from Proverbs, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," is that we have linked ourselves to a paradigm leading us toward both the earth and communion with one another. We cannot continue to only see the earth as a commodity and as a dispensable resource.

Underlying and permeating those actions described in the following report of "Significant Activities of the ETF", is a theme of the connections between our value choices and their impact on the land, between local and global trends, between our care for people and care for the environment.

The things we do, the positions we take, the speeches we give, our reason for having an Ecumenical Task Force at all, is the realization that we must integrate our spirituality with our daily lives as people who care for the earth, strive for justice and work to rebuild our society.

At the ETF, we perceive no dichotomy between working for ecological justice and social justice; we believe that what is good for the environment is good for the economy; care and compassion for all of creation is care and compassion for one another. All of these values are integrated dimensions of the same movement. They offer an embodied spirituality and society.

Yes, the **specific** task of the ETF may be unique in ecumenical ventures, but to care for and nurture the earth is our oldest and most engaging task and responsibility. It must be our vision to creatively "speak to the condition" (to use an old Quaker phrase rich in spiritual insight) of people and communities immersed in environmental crisis.

Recognizing our unique role and the experience we have gained over the past seven years, we begin this eighth year of the Ecumenical Task Force with courage and hope. I invite you to participate in the tasks with us, to support our efforts however and whenever you can. We are always in need of volunteers for tasks large and small. We are, as any grassroots organization, dependent on your financial support to sustain our efforts; the time you can give in sharing your expertise and experience is invaluable to us.

The needs of the people whom we serve and the issues we address are not always tangible and immediate; ours is often a slow, plodding, painstaking process; but the need for funds and human resources are no less than in the crises for food, clothing, and shelter brought on by a natural disaster. We often must deal with the brokenness of people's lives and the fires of conflict and controversy between government, industry and citizens. Our efforts are required to bring back life and spirit to the community; to heal the hurts; to find alternatives to the disposal of our hazardous wastes and the processes of industry and our individual use of the earth's resources and goods.

I hope you will join us in our efforts and I hope you will renew your pledge to be an earthkeeper.

Peace and all good!
Sister Margeen Hoffmann, OSF
Executive Director

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
AND
SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE
ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC. (ETF)
1985-1986 FISCAL YEAR

1. ETF organized a meeting of area environmentalists to form the Niagara Environmental Coalition, which includes twenty environmental organizations and concerned citizens.
2. ETF Staff and Board Member attended and served as a panelist at Governor's Environment 2000 Conference in New York City. ETF has been asked to co-sponsor with NYS DEC a mini-Environment 2000 conference in this area in the early Fall 1986.
3. ETF Staff and Board Member attendance at Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Waste Conference in Washington, D.C.
4. ETF presented testimony at Toxic Law Hearings in the Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center. ETF Staff assisted NYS Attorney General's office in organizing these hearings and soliciting speakers. As a result of these hearings, the NYS DEC has completed a manual listing the locations in New York where 402 of the most dangerous chemicals are used, stored, or manufactured.
5. ETF supported Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Great Lakes United and NYS DEC in upholding State Pollution Regulations placing limits on the amounts of 95 toxic chemicals that can be dumped in New York waters.
6. ETF became members of Great Lakes United and attended, participated, and presented a workshop at its 1986 Annual Meeting in Mackinaw City, Michigan.
7. ETF attended World Conference On Large Lakes on Mackinac Island, Michigan, and as member of Great Lakes United, ETF members assisted in the staffing of the conference.
8. Sister Margeen participated in Toxic Substances and Public Health Symposium in Wilmington, Delaware. The symposium was co-sponsored by: American Industrial Health Council, Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology, Conservation Foundation, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Harvard School of Public Health.
9. Sister Margeen is serving as an advisor for the chapter on Waste for The Conservation Foundation, Washington, D.C. for their forthcoming edition State Of The Environment.

10. ETF, in recognition of Earth Day, participated in providing a "birthday party" for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Niagara Falls office. An emphasis of this event was to request a special meeting with EPA Administrator, Lee Thomas. Such a meeting has been confirmed for early August 1986. ETF and Niagara environmental leaders will request that Mr. Thomas come to Niagara Falls for site tours and formulation of issue resolutions.
11. Sister Margeen was a principal speaker at the Annual All-Unit meetings of Mennonite/Amish Disaster Services in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
12. ETF responded to request of V.I.T.A.L. of Canajoharie, N.Y. to support their efforts to prevent a sanitary landfill siting over the County water supply aquifer.
13. Sister Margeen selected Citizen Of The Year 1985, by the Buffalo News, in recognition of her work on the environment.
14. ETF Staff selected to serve as members of the Hazardous Materials Advisory Council for the City of Niagara Falls.
15. ETF responded to request of citizens at Middleport, N.Y. after methyl isocyanate spill from FMC Corp. plant. Citizen group C.O.P.E. was organized and continues to use ETF Resource Center facilities.
16. ETF and Niagara University co-sponsored **Blueprint For Action:** A Working Conference on Hazardous Waste Problems, which brought together representatives of industry, academia, church, government and victims from across the United States and Canada. Participants were involved in a problem-solving technique designed to increase communication between all sectors. Conference was held October 20-22, 1985 at the Holiday Inn, Grand Island, N.Y.
17. ETF Board and Staff responded to request for assistance from citizens of LeRoy, N.Y., to prevent building of polyurethane foam manufacturing plant in residential and school area.
18. ETF Board Members requested and arranged meeting with Governor Cuomo in Albany to discuss environmental issues in New York State and in particular, Niagara and Erie Counties. ETF invited other citizen leaders across the State to be present. One result of this meeting was a draft health form prepared by New York State Department of Health, designed to be used at newly discovered sites and previous sites.

19. ETF Board Member reappointed to serve on New York State Superfund Management Board.
20. ETF Staff attended "Toxic Waste Training Conference on Legislative Lobbying & Organizing", sponsored by the Environmental Planning Lobby, in Albany, N.Y., August 1985.
21. ETF Staff invited as participants and to address the initial formation of the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches Division of Church and Society.
22. ETF members met with Attorney General Robert Abrams offering their support to prevent a resale of homes in the Love Canal Emergency Declaration Area by the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency. State Supreme Court ruled on June 2, 1986 that such sale is prohibited until an Environmental Impact Statement is completed for the entire Love Canal Emergency Declaration Area.
23. ETF Executive Director asked to participate in first technological disaster preparedness simulation in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The exercise involved truck and chlorine tanker collision with human injuries.
24. ETF Executive Director nominated and elected to Board of Environmental Planning Lobby (EPL), Albany, N.Y.
25. ETF Executive Director nominated and elected to Board of Directors of National Catholic Rural Life Conference.
26. ETF Staff Members, Board Members, and Scientific/Technical Advisors joined with other citizens of industry, business, and environmentalists in forming the Environmental Liaison Committee (ELC), an independent committee of the Niagara Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Plant Managers Association. The ELC is a mechanism for education and communication on environmental issues.

DIRECT AID/OUTREACH RESPONSE COMMITTEE REPORT, 1986

Direct Aid has grown in concept and development over the years since ETF's birth. We stand ready to serve any persons or communities stricken and in need of immediate relief, but since 1979, direct aid has become even more integral, as the needs have become more "sophisticated" in addressing hazardous waste issues.

ETF offices, staff, volunteer advocates, resources are available to individuals and communities in need of counseling, education or information.

Hopefully, as the core of ETF, Direct Aid/Outreach will continue to be available on a no "formula basis", but simply as needed.

The activities of Direct Aid/Outreach are succinctly and broadly described in the following section: ACTIVITIES OF THE ETF RESOURCE CENTER.

Therese M. Mudd
Chairman, Direct Aid/Outreach

*We encourage you and others to use the ETF-WASTE WATCH HOTLINE, a service begun in 1979 by Joan Gipp, Councilwoman, Town of Lewiston, and incorporated by the ETF in 1982.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ETF RESOURCE CENTER

Services provided to area environmental organizations and individuals include use of copy machine, telephone services, introduction to our political/social network, government agency personnel, ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board, and other grassroots organizations, and use of ETF library and DATABASE. Organizations using these services over the past year include:

Citizens Opposed to a Polluted Environment, Middleport, N.Y.
Help Eliminate Lawn Pesticides, Buffalo, N.Y.
Voters Involved Together Against Location, Canajoharie, N.Y.
LaSalle And Niagara Demand, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Niagara Environmental Coalition, Niagara Frontier
Residents surrounding the 102nd. Street, Love Canal, and
Hyde Park landfills.

Over the past year, requests for information and referral have been received from individuals and organizations including: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

ETF receives requests for and provides "site-seeing" tours on an average of six a month.

ETF has received numerous calls from out-of-state former residents of the Love Canal area regarding information on the medical trust fund set up as part of the Love Canal settlement agreement reached in 1984. These calls are referred to officers of this trust fund.

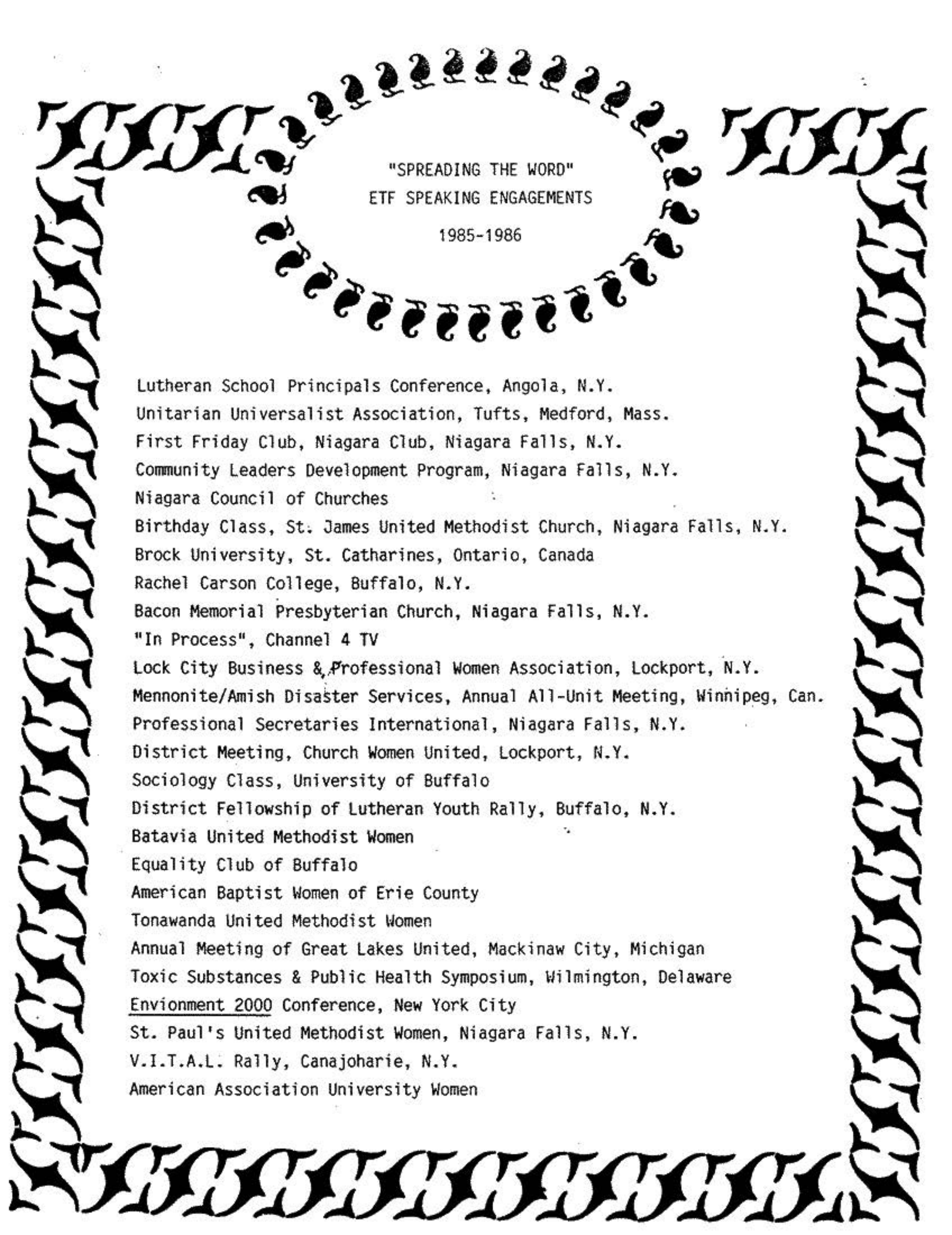
Several authors from across the United States and Canada have spent time researching and consulting with ETF Staff.

Active listening and referral counseling continues with a dozen former and present resident families of Love Canal.

Board Members and Staff have been asked to speak on numerous occasions to Church and civic groups in Niagara and Erie Counties. Other presentations or workshops given by ETF Board and Staff are described in "Significant Activities".

ETF assisted area environmental organizations in providing the services of an expert scientist, Dr. Paul Connett, to speak on their behalf at citizen meeting re incineration.

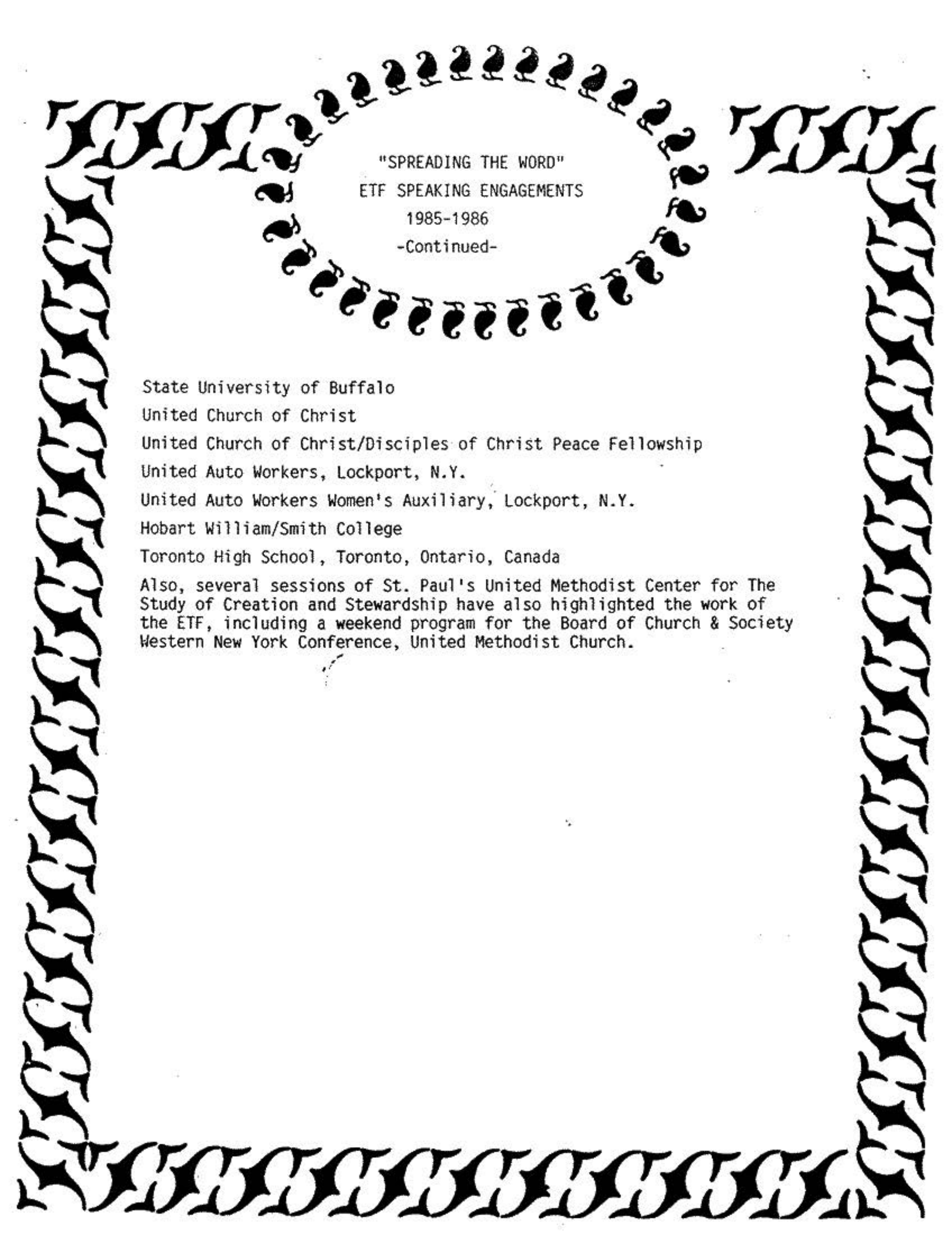
ETF Resource Center has been used by graduate students from the United States and Canada for research opportunities.



"SPREADING THE WORD"
ETF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

1985-1986

Lutheran School Principals Conference, Angola, N.Y.
Unitarian Universalist Association, Tufts, Medford, Mass.
First Friday Club, Niagara Club, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Community Leaders Development Program, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Niagara Council of Churches
Birthday Class, St. James United Methodist Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Rachel Carson College, Buffalo, N.Y.
Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
"In Process", Channel 4 TV
Lock City Business & Professional Women Association, Lockport, N.Y.
Mennonite/Amish Disaster Services, Annual All-Unit Meeting, Winnipeg, Can.
Professional Secretaries International, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
District Meeting, Church Women United, Lockport, N.Y.
Sociology Class, University of Buffalo
District Fellowship of Lutheran Youth Rally, Buffalo, N.Y.
Batavia United Methodist Women
Equality Club of Buffalo
American Baptist Women of Erie County
Tonawanda United Methodist Women
Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United, Mackinaw City, Michigan
Toxic Substances & Public Health Symposium, Wilmington, Delaware
Environment 2000 Conference, New York City
St. Paul's United Methodist Women, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
V.I.T.A.L. Rally, Canajoharie, N.Y.
American Association University Women



"SPREADING THE WORD"
ETF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS
1985-1986
-Continued-

State University of Buffalo

United Church of Christ

United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ Peace Fellowship

United Auto Workers, Lockport, N.Y.

United Auto Workers Women's Auxiliary, Lockport, N.Y.

Hobart William/Smith College

Toronto High School, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Also, several sessions of St. Paul's United Methodist Center for The Study of Creation and Stewardship have also highlighted the work of the ETF, including a weekend program for the Board of Church & Society Western New York Conference, United Methodist Church.



FULTON COUNTY LANDFILL FIGHT-- Assemblyman Paul Tonko (D), Joann Hale, Mayor Mary Plank (Canajoharie), Pat Brown and Junior Miss Fonda with sign "Together Our Unity Can Help".

LOVE CANAL HOMEOWNERS ASSOC. & ETF HELP CITIZENS IN CANAJOHARIE, NY

By Joann Hale & Pat Brown

Old, young, school-age, ministers and lay people got together to hold hands and pray so that a landfill would not be built on top of their watershed. The Love Canal Homeowners Association and the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (ETF) were asked to be part of this event because people related the proposed landfill to the Love Canal dumpsite. (Already, two Fulton County municipal landfills are Superfund sites.) We were delighted to go because we feel the knowledge we have to share should be shared.

Pat Brown of ETF spoke of the help the local churches could be to people facing a crisis. Joann Hale of the Love Canal Homeowners Assoc. spoke about what one community can do if they fight together in a unified voice against the problem. Pat said, "It is the most marvelous thing to witness 3,500 people holding hands and praying so they won't have to live a nightmare such as Love Canal."

*Waters Involved Together Against Location - VITAL - is the name of the group of citizens who have joined together to fight the placement of a landfill by Fulton County, on Max Road in the town of Johnstown, which is in immediate proximity to the Village of George Lurie's watershed. VITAL wants to network with other groups in all states. If your group can write a letter of support or share information on landfill problems, please contact Roger Bird, VITAL, c/o Canajoharie/Palatine Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 25, Canajoharie, New York, 13217, 518-673-2681. **Reminder to Water Toxicity Coalition members: please share your struggles and victories and requests for networking by sending in articles to the Newsletter, c/o Superfund Monitoring Project, 196 Morton Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12262.

The Ecumenical Task Force is a member of the Toxics In Your Community Coalition.

The residents of Canajoharie were referred to the ETF by the Eastern District, Lutheran Church In America and were invited to share their experiences by the Canajoharie/Palatine Chamber of Commerce.

ETF needs your support to respond to our many requests from communities and groups who request assistance.

St Pius School
1103 10th ST.
Glencoe Minn. 55336
March 17 1986

Dear Sr. Margen.
Sr. Joy told me that you are interested
in helping keep America free from Toxic
Waste. I am doing a science project
on Toxic Waste and I was wondering
if you could send me some information
on proper and safe disposal of Toxic Waste.

Thank you
Matt Koenemann,
Please send to
address above.

EDUCATION RESPONSE COMMITTEE REPORT, 1985

The "Academic Year, 1985-86" for the ETF was a very fine one!

There are two major events that took place this year under the aegis of the Education Response Committee:

1. The Niagara Blueprint Conference:

The purpose of the Conference was to bring the important sectors of our community together (Environmentalists, Academicians, People in Industry and Government, and the People of the community who do not necessarily fit under any one of the above), to focus on how we can effectively work together, with trust, to eliminate the problems of the dumping of hazardous wastes, and its effect on our communities.

The Blueprint Conference (Oct. 1985) did succeed in its purpose! The important representatives of the various sectors were present, they shared, and argued, and resolved, and they began to try to understand one another and the problems/concerns shared by each sector.

No one resolution was reached at the conference. That would have been impossible, and, I dare to say, undesirable. The process was the thing! To get people from those varying sectors to come with open minds and with trust for one another; to share their concerns, problems, and needs; and then to arrive at some tentative conclusions or "cooperative arrangements" - that was the process that was desired, and in my judgment, achieved.

Yes, there were problems. But there was no problem, either by work or in print, that convinced the ETF that we were less than successful.

We now promise to the Niagara Community (and to many other friends around the country) that we will pursue the possibility of Blueprint Conference II. (We have promised Commissioner Williams that we would be willing to look into hosting a mini-conference in our area, patterned after the recent conference in New York City, Environment 2000).

I must say some important words about the pre-conference planning committee, titled Conference Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG met for almost a year before the Oct. 1985 Conference.

It was in the working sessions of the CAG that we discovered two important things: (a) that we slowly grew in openness, honesty, challenge, trust and commitment; and (b) that we could all sit together around a common table and address the tough and sensitive issues of: the hazardous wastes in our landfills and rivers and lakes, the health and safety of our people, and the need for citizen participation in government control/planning, and so forth.

It was with the experience of the dynamics and possibility of the CAG that the Ecumenical Task Force decided to go on and apply our experience and theory to the Blueprint Conference. The experience of the pre-conference advisory group was, in my view, an integral and unqualified part of the Blueprint Process. It should be part of a Blueprint II with an expansion of sector representatives from the public, elected persons and business communities.

2. Goals and Objectives for 2001

In December 1985, the ETF met for a two-day session at Stella Niagara to clarify and objectify our desires/hopes for ETF in 2001, the turn of the century and then some.

Allow me to list for you the results of our two-day sharing/study session, listed here as our prioritized goals:

1. To educate our church leadership and through them the public. We should study our own theology in relationship to our task.
2. Educate ourselves scientifically so that we can come to grips with the question, "what do we do with toxic waste?".
3. Broaden citizen/congregation participation in ETF.
4. ETF must respond to Niagara Frontier's total environmental situation.
ETF must articulate a policy on economics and environment and employment.
5. Advocate/monitor legislation.
6. Clarify our relationship to:
Regulatory Agencies
Industry
Church
Other Community Groups
Church World Service

With whom do we network and how do we develop that policy?

7. Direct Aid/Outreach Response. Aid given to persons affected by hazardous waste.

Our objectives, those means we will use to carry out our goals, were also discussed. It will be the work of our Standing Committees (Executive, Public Policy, Education, Direct Aid/Outreach) to concretize how we will achieve our goals. Many of these objectives have already been implemented, and are now a reality.

Publications

Finally, a word about two publications: (a) our Post-Conference Publication. ETF has promised you a copy of the post-conference proceedings and it is proposed to be sent to you on the anniversary of Blueprint in October 1986. Because so much of our conference work is done by volunteers, our task to meet deadlines becomes most difficult. Thank you for your patience and understanding. (b) ETF Manual: we will also have our Manual in your hands by early Fall 1986. The Manual is something that we have studied and developed for a long time and we are coming close to its completion - it will present a model and a process for coping/managing a hazardous waste threat to a local community, such as the ETF has done. This model and process can be used by many other communities who face the same or similar problems in their local community. We have already helped friends in Times Beach, Missouri, and other localities, with a model and process which our Manual will describe in detail.

And so you can see that the Education Committee has been working, and more importantly, we have been planning. And planning - for short-term concrete steps in managing local hazardous waste problems, and for long-term systemic change within our society - is what we must do, in conscience, as responsible stewards of our earth. For as God reveals, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

Rev. Dr. Joseph Levesque, C.M.
Chairman, Education Response

Report on Environmental Concerns and Activities of The Ecumenical Task Force of
The Niagara Frontier -- April 1986

Our concern for the Environmental Health of the Niagara Frontier continues to lead us in a number of important directions in our work with The Ecumenical Task Force. I'm sad to report that the basic situation regarding the presence of Health hazards in our area has remained almost unchanged for the past several years. The various Hazardous Material Landfills which have posed such a threat to human health and safety continue to leak. While many remedial efforts have been discussed and proposed by government, industry, and concerned groups and individuals, few of these efforts have actually been put into place at this time.

We have all learned a great deal over these past years. Governments have learned that remedial programs for environmental problems can be very very expensive. Industries have learned that they must talk in more sophisticated language to governments and individuals concerned about environmental efforts. Environmental groups have learned that we must not only be continually learning more about science to understand the language used by industry, but also be continually watchful for new environmental concerns and problems (sometimes developing out of "clean-up" attempts) which can seriously effect the lives of individuals.

Although it is very expensive, we still feel that total excavation of hazardous material from leaking landfills will be the only permanent solution to our problems of hazardous waste. We feel that this material should be excavated and stored in containers above ground where we can see easily if any materials are about to leak into the ground or the air. On the other hand, government tends to agree with representatives of industry that this is far too costly to be considered.

Industry would prefer to install drainage devices around the perimeter of the various dumps but leave the materials inside intact until some proven method is discovered for total destruction of these dangerous substances. Also, they are concerned with the costs of storing even this material which has been drained and would like to bury it again within the landfills (which we find totally objectionable) or perhaps burn it in an incinerator (which they feel is perhaps as much as 99.9% effective). Our concern is that even the .1% amount of the substance which might be circulated through the air from the smoke stack of the incinerator might prove deadly to living things residing near the area of this treatment. Also, what would be the cumulative effect of the six incinerators currently being proposed for the Niagara Falls area?

New hazards are being continually discovered in existing dumps and even in what is produced by existing factories. We are continuing to work with persons from various neighborhoods in this city and in other areas who have concern about what may be happening to them and their loved ones through old landfills or new treatment facilities. We are receiving more calls from second-generation Love Canal residents (especially some who are now in their late teens) reporting new symptoms and diseases they are experiencing.

We continue to express our concern for the clean-up of the Niagara River and Cayuga Creek watershed. In the current NYS Fishing License Handbook, you are instructed to eat absolutely no fish caught in these waters. However, a number of children who are too young to need licenses fish there all the time. We feel that signs should be posted in these areas clearly warning of the dangers of the water and the fish.

We are pleased to have a continuing dialogue with members of government agencies and industry in order to encourage them to look for new and safer means of disposal and better ways to clean-up old hazardous landfills. We are in agreement with the new Water Quality Standards requirements of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and are alarmed that the Industrial Liaison Committee of the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce has filed a lawsuit to have these relaxed. We will be joining with other concerned groups to inform the court of the need for these stricter requirements.

We continue to hope that everyone concerned will bear in mind the dangers of hazardous waste from old landfills and current industrial production. There will never be a time when it will be less costly to deal properly with these materials and we must continually remind everyone concerned that the most valuable commodity of all is life itself. It is priceless.

Respectfully Submitted,


Donald L. Lawrence

ABCNF Representative,

Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier

Environmental disasters hurt too, MDS meeting told

Winnipeg (MCCC) "I hope you will be disturbed by what I'm going to say," Sister Margeen Hoffman told 450 people gathered here for the annual All Unit meeting of Mennonite Disaster Service. "Yes, so disturbed that you will get together later to discuss ways to respond."

With those words, she launched into a horrific description of scores of environmental disasters caused by society's blatant betrayal of the "trust given to us long ago by our Creator."

She told how scores of water sources have been hopelessly fouled by industrial pollutants, how people as far apart as Bhopal, India and Middleport, N.Y., have suffered due to leaks of deadly chemicals; how cities and industries continue to defy laws designed to prevent the escape of extremely dangerous chemicals like PCBs into the air and water; how poverty-stricken and ethnic-minority communities have been forced to bear the brunt of indiscriminate dumping of radioactive and toxic wastes; how a middle-class neighborhood built on top of a poison dump suffered an epidemic of cancer and birth defects and experienced untold economic, physical and emotional pain.

"The careless or unconcerned or unknown practices of 20 to 30 years ago are becoming the new disasters of today," she said, urging MDS to consider ways to relieve the pain that environmental disasters bring.

Hoffman came to the MDS meeting with personal experience. A well-educated Roman Catholic nun, she is director of the Ecumenical Task Force on the Niagara Frontier, a group deeply involved with the infamous Love Canal and other environmental disasters now coming to light in that region.

Speaking warmly of the efforts of MDS members, who came to the Feb.



Sister Margeen Hoffman

7-8 meeting from across North America, she acknowledged that the needs of people involved in environmental calamities are much more complex and "less tangible and immediate" than those suffering natural disaster.

However, where industrial interests wantonly ignore the biblical command to take care of the earth, Christians "are required by God to challenge the justice of such cruel and arrogant behavior," she said.

Also speaking at the meetings was Jacob Pauls, who gave a series of meditations on the conference theme.

"Hope in the Context of Suffering"

Ernie Isaac, a counselor with the Eden Mental Health Centre, Winkler, Man., provided helpful guidelines for dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of disaster on its victims.

Isaac said many suffer symptoms of "disaster syndrome," which may include prolonged fears, inappropriate guilt, a preoccupation with the event of the disaster, a deep feeling of uprootedness, anxiety or depression over the loss of a familiar community, a psychological need to re-erect fences and other symbols of privacy and identity, and a conflict between the need for help and the desire to remain strong and independent.

He said those who want to minister to disaster victims need to take seriously the grief victims experience over the loss of possessions as well as loved ones. They also need to be good listeners, sensitive to local values and culture and respectful of the individual's need for privacy. They should also know where to refer people if long-term family counseling is needed.

Though individuals vary in their reaction to disaster, Isaac said, for many it can be a turning point. It can crush their lives or be a catalyst for emotional and spiritual growth. A caring Christian volunteer who comes to bring hope in the midst of hopelessness can make the difference.

The delegates also heard reports from units across the United States and Canada, where activity in 1985 was centered on tornado sites in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Ontario, floods and mudslides in Puerto Rico, and wide-scale flooding in Texas, Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida and other parts of the eastern United States. *Dorcen Murtens*

PUBLIC POLICY RESPONSE COMMITTEE REPORT, 1986

The work of our committee is related to several of the 1986 priority issues of the Ecumenical Task Force:

1. To educate our church leadership and through them the public.
2. Educate ourselves scientifically so that we can come to grips with the question: "What to do with toxic waste?"
5. Advocate/monitor legislation/the action of regulatory agencies.
6. Networking

Since June 1985, the Public Policy Response Committee has been active in many areas, including:

Federal Superfund Legislation (Priorities 1 & 5)

In July, Rev. Jim Brewster went to Washington, D.C., with the cooperation of the Sierra Club, to talk with Western New York representatives about our area needs in Superfund legislation. We have studied the House-Senate versions of Superfund and urged Western New York Church leaders to advocate on behalf of Superfund. A resolution written by Rev. Al Laese was passed by American Lutherans meeting in Baltimore in April 1986, and revised, by Western New York United Methodists at their Annual Conference at Houghton College in early June 1986.

Cayuga Creek Contamination (Priority 5)

The pollution in Cayuga Creek (as well as Black and Bergholtz which flows into it) is a major concern because this body of water is the major watershed of the Love Canal area. Our committee has continually monitored the clean-up plans for the creeks and advocated with both the State Department of Health and Environmental Conservation for the erection of warning signs throughout the length of the watershed.

Love Canal Habitability (Priority 5)

Our committee has attended, monitored and participated in Technical Review Committee (TRC) hearings on the procedures and reviews for determining the eventual disposition of properties and ongoing studies at Love Canal.

We have consistently, publicly, opposed the resale of homes in the Emergency Declaration Area (EDA) without proper environmental safeguards. We support the efforts of the State Attorney General's office and the State Court's decision to prohibit the resale of EDA homes without proper safety assurances.

Incineration of Toxic Wastes (Priority 2 and 6)

We sponsored the appearance of Dr. Paul Connett of St. Lawrence University in February, 1986, at a meeting called by the NYS Department of Health at 66th. Street School, Niagara Falls, N.Y.; to educate the ETF Public Policy Response Committee and Board of Directors about the effects of incineration of wastes from, in particular, the Occidental Energy From Waste facility. We have joined the National Coalition Against Mass Burn Incineration/For Safe Alternatives network.

This background and research will be helpful as ETF determines alternative technologies for the proper disposition of wastes at Hyde Park, Love Canal, SCA, etc.

We have also attended public meetings and Open Houses on the Plasma Arc process for Love Canal liquid wastes.

Participation in Public Hearings (Priority 5)

Several members and friends of ETF testified in the Joint Public Hearings sponsored by the State Attorney General, the Commissioners of Health and Environmental Conservation, and the State Senate and Assembly on the prevention of sudden, uncontrolled toxic chemical releases at commercial and industrial sites. These hearings were held in Niagara Falls on February 6, 1986.

Monitoring of Progress At CECOS, Hyde Park and 102nd. St. Dumpsites (Priority 5)

Our committee members have attended public meetings for the several dumpsites now under litigation and negotiations in the Niagara Falls area.

DEC Standards (Priority 5)

The ETF has also supported a coalition of environmental groups, both financially and in spirit, as together we have opposed the suit brought by the Industrial Liaison Committee of the Niagara Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and the National Solid Waste Management Association to challenge the DEC's regulation placing limits on the amounts of 95 toxic chemicals that can be dumped in New York waters.

The State Supreme Court ruled on June 4th. in favor of the DEC in upholding the state pollution regulations.

Hosting Meetings with DEC officials (Priority 5 & 6)

As a means of sharing ETF positions with the State Department of Environmental Conservation, we have met regularly with both Norman Nosenchuck, Head of Solid Waste Management, and John Spagnoli, Director of Region 9 DEC, to share many of the concerns listed above.

Rev. Dr. James N. Brewster
Chairman, Public Policy Response

Resolution passed by the Eastern District
of the American Lutheran Church , in
Convention in Baltimore, MD, April 26, 1986

WHEREAS the Eastern District of the American Lutheran Church recognizes the necessity of a proper stewardship of God's creation, and;

WHEREAS, There are innumerable former toxic dumpsites throughout the United States, a result of our failure to be faithful stewards of God's creation, and;

WHEREAS, the cleanup of more than 100 hazardous waste sites has been delayed by the failure of Congress to reauthorize Superfund legislation, and;

WHEREAS, the proposals before Congress do not approximate the cost of cleanup as estimated by the Office of Technical Assessment;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Eastern District petition the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives and their House/Senate Conference Committee now in session to enact passage of the final Superfund Bill to include the following provisions:

1. Immediate short term funding.
2. Require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to select permanent cleanup solutions instead of short term "cost-effective" remedial actions.
3. Require the EPA to complete inspection and listing of sites by January 1988, and require EPA commence to cleanup at no fewer than 600 sites during the next 5 years.
4. Require public participation and comment on settlement and cleanup plans.
5. Allow for citizens to sue Federal agencies for failure to carry out mandatory duty.
6. Make adequate emergency planning and right-to-know provisions on chemicals and health hazards available to the public.
7. Allowance for permanent relocation of residents to protect public health / welfare.
8. Authorize funds for purchase of remaining properties at Love Canal.
9. Require mandatory employee training on hazardous materials.
10. Reform States Statutes of Limitations , limiting the time period during which victims can file suits for damages to begin at the time the plaintiff knew that the injury or damage was caused or contributed to by hazardous substances.
11. Make chemical assistance grants available to groups or individuals to help them understand technical information on Superfund sites.

A Resolution Concerning Stewardship of The Earth and Federal Superfund Legislation, passed by The Niagara Cluster, Buffalo District, on May 22, 1986, and recommended for action at the Western New York Annual Conference.

WHEREAS the Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church recognizes the necessity of a proper stewardship of God's creation, and;

WHEREAS, there are innumerable former toxic dumpsites throughout the United States, a result of our failure to be faithful stewards of God's creation, and;

WHEREAS, the cleanup of more than 100 hazardous waste sites has been delayed by the failure of Congress to reauthorize Superfund legislation, and;

WHEREAS, the proposals before Congress do not approximate the cost of cleanup as estimated by the Office of Technical Assessment;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church petition the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and their House/Senate Conference Committee now in session to enact passage of the final Superfund Bill to include the following provisions:

1. Immediate short term funding.
2. Require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to select permanent cleanup solutions instead of short term "cost-effective" remedial actions.
3. Require the EPA to complete inspection and listing of sites by January 1988, and require EPA commence to cleanup at no fewer than 600 sites during the next five years.
4. Require public participation and comment on settlement and cleanup plans.
5. Allow for citizens to sue Federal agencies for failure to carry out mandatory duty.
6. Make adequate emergency planning and right-to-know provisions on chemicals and health hazards available to the public.
7. Allowance for permanent relocation of residents to protect public health/welfare.
8. Authorize funds for purchase of remaining properties at Love Canal, including Churches and businesses.
9. Require mandatory employee training on hazardous materials.
10. Reform States Statutes of Limitations, which now limit the time period during which victims can file suits for damages to begin at the time the plaintiff knows that the injury or damage was caused or contributed to by hazardous substances.
11. Make chemical assistance grants available to groups or individuals to help them understand technical information on Superfund sites.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

MARIO M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

October 21, 1985

Dear Father Levesque:

I regret that I am unable to participate in your Niagara Blueprint Conference. I have asked Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry G. Williams to represent me. You can be assured that Commissioner Williams will provide me with a full account of your Conference's proceedings and recommendations.

I wish you success in your Conference and your goal of increasing cooperative interaction among all sectors concerned with environmental problems. The truth is that the care and protection of our environment are a self interest for us all, whatever our party or ideology. The Ecumenical Task Force recognizes that this truth is as applicable for industrialists as well as farmers, for politicians as well as parents.

I appreciate your kind remarks about my meeting with you and other members of the Task Force. Progress has been achieved on several items we discussed.

The Department of Health has developed a draft health assessment form and analysis plan for known environmental exposures. This involves the use of questions designed to assess symptoms, disease outcomes and environmental risks perceptions related to specific, known environmental exposure. I am enclosing a draft of this assessment form for your comment and review.

In addition, Dr. David Axelrod informs me that the Department of Health has pilot tested a community health survey,, which the Department hopes to implement early next year. The survey is for use in situations where there is known exposure and will include questions to identify perceived risks and symptoms which may be related to unspecific exposures.

This survey is designed to look at symptoms reported generally by population groups living in different sections of the State and attempt to establish a base line of public perception of health status.

Third, the Department of Health has completed its draft protocol to be used in identifying potential health hazards associated with the nearly 900 hazardous waste landfills within New York. These health concerns will then be used to re-rank the dumpsites for priority under the State Superfund program. The draft protocol will be peer-reviewed before it is applied to the existing Superfund priority formula. I am enclosing a copy of the draft protocol for your review and comment.

I look forward to working with you and other concerned citizens in a mutual effort to preserve and protect our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mario Cuomo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Mario Cuomo".

The Reverend Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
President, Board of Directors
Ecumenical Task Force
Office of the Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Niagara University
Niagara Falls, New York 14109

A FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (ETF) experienced valuable support in the past year (1985-86) from organizations and foundations to fund special projects such as the Blueprint For Action Conference, the Resource Center and DATABASE. We are most grateful to all of those groups and individuals who provide the much needed resources for the special projects undertaken by the ETF.

Securing sustaining funds from denominations and religious organizations is an ongoing and continual focus for the Board Members. It is necessary to have this steady source of income to maintain an office and a level of staffing. Plans are underway to meet with denominational leaders to strengthen the sustaining fund program.

In order to broaden our financial bases and to demonstrate creativity in projects already developed to protect and restore the environment, an ETF-Financial Advisory Board has been created. This group, representing a wide-cross section of the community on the Niagara Frontier, is meeting to develop and execute fund-raising policies and a program.

Many hours of volunteer time is provided by those in scientific, technical, social, management and communication fields. Other persons or groups provide material help such as magazine subscriptions, books, supplies and labor. We are indebted to each one for these items and services which enable our Staff and Board Members to go where we are needed to listen, provide assistance, and present workshops.

We thank the organizations and personnel who have provided, throughout the year, stipends, grants, scholarships, or the opportunity to accept national and international invitations. With this support and sharing of their resources, we are able, in turn, to share with hundreds of other persons our interfaith vision of stewardship for the earth.

Your continued or new support to the Ecumenical Task Force as a "Friend of ETF" is deeply appreciated.

Gratefully,

Therese M. Mudd
Treasurer

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

TOTAL INCOME SUPPORT FOR YEARS 1979 - 1985

Based on ETF Fiscal Year, April 1 - March 31

Contributor	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985*
American Baptist Churches, USA Amer. Bapt. Chur. of Nia. Front. Inc.	\$ 2,500.00	\$20,200.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$	\$ 500.00
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	3,000.00						
Church of The Brethren	1,000.00	9,000.00		1,500.00			
Church Women United		1,000.00					
Church World Service	3,000.00	2,186.00				2,000.00	
Episcopal: Episcopal Diocese Presiding Bishops Fund Niagara Deanery Episcopal Charities of WNY	5,000.00		50.00 200.00	12,000.00		1,500.00	
Lutheran: American Lutheran Church ALC-Luth. Mission Society Lutheran Church in America LCUSA Luth. Chur.-Missouri Synod		2,000.00 3,000.00	648.25 500.00 355.50	842.00 6,750.00	1,154.75 5,250.00	2,000.00	
Mennonite: Mennonite Central Committee WNY Mennonite Disaster Committee	300.00 50.00				500.00		
Presbyterian: Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbytery of WNY Womens' Opportunity Giving	3,000.00	12,000.00	14,000.00 1,000.00	22,000.00	5,000.00	358.00	1,317.00 10,000.00
Roman Catholic: Catholic Charities - Buffalo Campaign for Human Dev. (local) National Catholic Charities St. Vincent DePaul Society St. Catherine of Sienna Oblate Justice Fund Campus Ministry Niagara University Franciscan Development Fund	1,000.00 2,500.00 2,500.00 250.00 1,000.00		5,000.00 3,500.00 2,000.00		2,500.00 3,000.00 2,500.00 50.00	2,000.00	1,200.00 50.00 140.00 1,500.00
United Church of Christ: Western Assoc. of N.Y. Conference National	1,000.00 1,000.00		1,709.00	1,950.00	2,312.50 500.00	3,862.00	3,838.00
United Methodist: WNY Conference United Methodist METRO U.M.C.O.R. Niagara Falls-Grand Island Cluster Buffalo District UMC Board of Global Ministries (Advance Specials)	6,000.00	3,073.14 2,000.00	134.50 17,500.00	1,000.00 500.00	250.00 500.00 1,000.00	1,250.00	500.00 489.37
Unitarian Universalist				3,500.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	
Honorariums					40.00	394.22	245.00
Individual Donations	564.00	1,255.11	1,240.91	414.30	1,901.00	1,602.65	1,039.79
Individual Churches Niagara Council of Churches	621.33	185.06	1,025.00				53.21 210.00
Black Mountain Association						1,500.00	
Ruth Mott Fund						15,000.00	
Wm. H. Donner Foundation						60,000.00 ^R	
NYPIRG	250.00						
YEARLY TOTALS	\$34,535.33	\$55,899.31	\$53,863.16	\$60,706.30	\$ 50,208.25	\$113,206.24	\$44,343.00

^RRestricted for legal & technical assistance.

*Reflects income thru March 31, 1986

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A yearly audit of the financial records of the corporation is conducted by Batt & Carroll, Certified Public Accountants, 15 Webster Street, North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Contributions to the work of the Ecumenical Task Force are tax deductible.

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