

TEC New Orleans

A Vision of Servant Leadership

I: Title

Teens Encounter Christ is a national, Roman Catholic retreat movement for older adolescents and young adults based on learning, experiencing, and living the Paschal Mystery. TEC New Orleans is a retreat program and faith community under the auspices of the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and is an affiliated member of the National TEC Conference.

II: Mission

Believing that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core message of our Christian faith, TEC is a recognized movement of the Roman Catholic Church, offering to youth and young adults an experience of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. Through evangelization and catechesis, this intergenerational movement facilitates spiritual growth of youth and young adults with a community of adult mentors. TEC calls forth one's goodness for service in the Church and world. Toward this end, TEC is committed to providing formation and education of adult leaders, quality resources, and a network of support and communication. (from www.tecneworleans.com)

III: Governing Structure

Section 1: Community

The TEC New Orleans community is made up of all those who have made a Teens Encounter Christ retreat. As a faith community, TEC New Orleans is part of the larger church community of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, guided by its shepherd, the Archbishop of New Orleans.

Section 2: Core Team

The Core Team serves TEC New Orleans by facilitating a meaningful Catholic faith community centered on the Paschal Mystery. The Core Team is made up of a Leadership Council and four Ministry Teams of equal importance: Retreat Ministry, Spiritual Formation, Community Life, and Administrative Ministry.

Section 3: Leadership Council

The Leadership Council is the decision-making body for TEC New Orleans and consists of the following:

- 1) The Spiritual Director, a priest who serves as the spiritual leader and primary sacramental minister.

- 2) The Assistant Spiritual Director, ideally a priest, deacon, or religious who assists the Spiritual Director in his service, including representing him when so delegated
- 3) Two Lay Facilitators, the primary leaders in management and facilitation of all aspects of TEC New Orleans.
- 4) The Liaisons of each of the four Ministry Teams.
- 5) The Director of the Archdiocesan CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office serves ex-officio on the Leadership Council, participating in its work on an as-available basis.

The Leadership Council normally makes decisions by consensus, with decision by majority vote conducted only when necessary. The Lay Facilitators are empowered to make certain decisions on behalf of the Leadership Council as outlined in these Standard Operating Procedures. The TEC New Orleans Spiritual Director, as a representative of the Archbishop of New Orleans, has authority over all actions of the Leadership Council, and of TEC New Orleans in general. As a ministry and community of the Archdiocese of New Orleans assigned to the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office by the archbishop, final authority on all aspects of TEC New Orleans rests with the Director of the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office.

IV: Core Team Selection

Section 1: Qualifications

Any practicing Roman Catholic who has participated in a TEC Retreat, complied with child protection/safe environment policies of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, completed any required ministry leadership training, and been confirmed by the Leadership Council is eligible to serve on the Core Team

Section 2: Ministry Teams

Each Ministry Team has a defined set of positions based on the needs, functions, and tasks of each ministry. The entire TEC New Orleans community is invited to volunteer for these positions. Final selection is made by the Leadership Council. Individuals serving on the ministry teams serve for one-year terms, with possibility of multiple renewals, subject to the approval of the Leadership Council.

Section 3: Ministry Team Liaisons

The Liaison of each Ministry Team is selected from that team by the Leadership Council for a two-year term, with possibility of one consecutive renewal. Ministry Liaisons facilitate communication between their team and the Leadership Council, and serve as public leaders, decision-makers, and ministers of hospitality and service.

Section 4: Lay Facilitators

The entire Core Team discerns candidates from among its members with final selection made by the Leadership Council subject to the approval of the Spiritual Director and the Director of the Archdiocesan CYO Office. Lay Facilitators serve a two-year term, with possibility of one consecutive renewal.

Section 5: Assistant Spiritual Director

The Assistant Spiritual Director is appointed by the Spiritual Director and the Director of the CYO/Youth Ministry Office for a term of two-years with possibility of multiple renewals.

Section 6: Spiritual Director

The Spiritual Director is appointed by the Archbishop of New Orleans, with the advice of the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office. The term of office is at the discretion of the archbishop.

Section 7: Terms of Office

The term of office, except as noted, shall begin in September. Therefore the leadership selection process must begin no later than August of that year.

V: Removal from the Core Team

Any member of the Core Team may be removed by action of the Leadership Council, the Spiritual Director, or the Director of the CYO Office for just cause including, but not limited to the following: failure to carry out assigned tasks, failure to attend required meetings, failure to be an active presence in the various activities of TEC New Orleans, acting as an agent of division within the TEC Community, failure to carry out the letter and spirit of the TEC Retreat Manuals, violations of the Child Protection/Safe Environment policies of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and public actions inconsistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

VI: Standard Operating Procedures

Section 1: Retreat Ministry Team

The Retreat Ministry Team supports the TEC Retreat weekends held according to a calendar set by the Leadership Council and the CYO Office. The individual coordinator positions serve as resources and, in some instances, as task supervisors. Coordinators are not empowered to make decisions that change established procedures, policies or customs without consulting the Lay Facilitators. The specific tasks and resource support are done in accordance with the TEC Retreat Manuals. Individual positions include **coordinators/contact persons** for:

- Retreat Lay Directors (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as Lay Facilitators of a TEC Retreat)
- Retreat Spiritual and Assistant Spiritual Directors (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as Spiritual and Assistant Spiritual Directors of a TEC Retreat)
- Retreat Assistant Lay Directors (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as ALD's of a TEC Retreat)
- Wheat Team (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as WT Directors, ensure adequate supplies for WT, ensure a quality ConTEC experience)
- Cook Team (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as CT Directors and monitor supplies in storage)
- Music (provide introduction, explanation, and support for individuals serving as musicians on a TEC retreat, gather community musicians for rehearsals, maintain sound system equipment, and maintain an updated songbook)
- Hoot (coordinate all aspects of the Hoot including arranging for a priest and church for a Hoot Mass, obtaining the Jesus plaques presented to the Tecites, providing nametags, markers, and posterboard, confirming musicians, and preparing two members of the Core Team to lead the Hoot at Magnificat)
- Tecite Bus (act as a contact person for the departure and return of the Tecite bus and delegate this task as needed)
- Priests for Sacrament of Reconciliation (in coordination with the Spiritual Director, Lay Facilitators, and CYO Office, invite and confirm priests to serve as confessors)
- Wheat Letter coordinator (contact community members as needed to gather Wheat letters for Tecites, gather letters from CYO Office, coordinate with the Wheat Team)
- Team Selection (gather team applications, prepare a list of applicants with relevant information including past work history, assist the Lay Facilitators as needed; this contact person does not form the Selection Committee, nor make team selection decisions)

Section 2: Spiritual Formation Team

The Spiritual Formation Team serves to help all aspects of the TEC Retreat program and the faith community live the Paschal Mystery. This group's service includes

- Serving as a special prayer community to lift up the needs of TEC New Orleans
- Studying the documents of the National TEC Conference in order to gain a deeper understanding of the theology of TEC
- Studying broader issues of Catholic theology, spirituality, and ministry that are relevant to TEC
- Conducting occasional faith/spiritual formation workshops for the community
- Conducting occasional prayer gatherings for the community

- Plans the Beyond TEC retreat, including organizing the basic theological structure, talks, etc.

The Spiritual Formation Team is made up of approximately ten individuals who have one or more of the following attributes:

- Long-time, active member of TEC New Orleans
- Active in various aspects of the local Church including a parish, recognized ecclesial movement, archdiocesan programs, etc.
- A deep, personal prayer life recognized by others
- Involvement in youth or young adult ministry
- Service as a teacher of Catholic theology
- A desire to learn, experience, and deepen a faith that originates from a personal encounter with Jesus Christ
- Ordained or vowed religious
- Sense of service and humility in a role of leadership

Section 3: Community Ministry Team

The Community Ministry Team serves to enhance the growth and maintenance of TEC New Orleans as a Catholic faith community beyond the conducting of TEC retreats.

Community ministry includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Sponsoring Paschal Circle gatherings
- Sponsoring a Christmas party
- Sponsoring special social events (like the 25th Anniversary Celebration)
- Promoting and coordinating participation in programs and events of the National TEC Conference
- Representing TEC at functions such as World Youth Day, Abbey Youth Fest, etc.
- Selling TEC T-shirts and related items
- Coordinating “thank you letters” as appropriate to donors, workers, etc.

This team is made up of approximately ten individuals who coordinate a specific task or event as outlined above or determined on an as-needed basis. Team members should be individuals who

- work for the good of the entire TEC community without regard to particular groups
- represent the various constituencies such as high school students, college students, young adults, older adults, geographic interests, cultural/racial diversity, etc.
- be people who make an effort to be networked in and among community members

Section 4: Administrative Team

The Administrative Team serves as a task-oriented group to address day-to-day business. Tasks, each requiring a coordinator, include but are not limited to:

- Team and Tecite recruitment
- archiving minutes of all Core Team and Leadership Council meetings; does not take minutes at meetings other than their own
- Maintaining archives (photography, scrapbooks, memorabilia, etc.)
- Updates and maintenance of the database (through the CYO Office)
- Updates and maintenance of the TEC website (through the CYO Office)
- provide financial accounting expertise as needed
- liaison to the Magnificat Center of the Holy Spirit
- coordination of e-mail and mailings (through the CYO Office)
- retreat publicity opportunities and projects

The Administrative Team is made up of approximately ten individuals who are above-average task supervisors with very good organizational skills.

Section 5: Meetings

The Leadership Council should meet at least every other month.

The Ministry Teams should meet at least quarterly.

The entire Core Team should meet annually.

An overnight retreat for the Core Team consisting of prayer experiences, team-building, ministry training, and spiritual formation should be held every two years, at the beginning of the term of a new Lay Facilitator.

Minutes of official meetings should be taken, maintained, and sent to the Leadership Council.

Section 6: Retreat Team Selection

Selection of teams to work a TEC Retreat is to be conducted by a committee consisting of a representative from each ministry team invited by the Lay Facilitators, and the Lay Facilitators themselves, who may serve ex-officio on any selection committee. The Spiritual Director and the CYO Office Director may sit on the Selection Committee at their discretion. No community member applying to work a retreat may serve on the selection committee for that retreat. Those accepted to be on team are required to attend the Focus and Potluck meetings unless an exception has been made by the Lay Facilitators. Removal from a team after selection shall be done in consultation among the retreat weekend Lay Directors and the Lay Facilitators.

VII. Implementation of Leadership Vision

In the interest of continuity and an efficient transition to this leadership structure, the following provisions should be followed:

- the term of office shall begin in February 2008 and extend to September 2009; subsequent terms shall run September - September
- individuals who were not term-limited at the conclusion of the 2005-2007 TEC Core Group are to be given automatic consideration for positions on the Core Team, particularly for roles on the Leadership Council
- individuals who were term limited at the conclusion of the 2005-2007 TEC Core Group term may serve on the Core Team but not the Leadership Council
- by prior arrangement, one of the Lay Facilitators chosen for 2007-2009 will be limited to one term so as to create overlapping terms of office for the two Lay Facilitators
- until the 2007-2009 Leadership Council is constituted, confirmation for all positions shall be made by the 2005-2007 TEC Core Group minus those members who were term-limited as of September 2007
- the Spiritual Director and the CYO Office may make exception as needed to ensure a smooth transition
- in August 2009 (and subsequent Augusts of each year) the outgoing Leadership Council, under the direction of the Spiritual Director and CYO Office, shall conduct the process for confirming/replacing members of the Core Team, new ministry liaisons, and new Lay Facilitators

VIII: Updates to the Leadership Vision

Changes to the Leadership Vision document and the Standard Operating Procedures may be made by the Leadership Council after consultation with the entire Core Team, and the approval of the Spiritual Director and the CYO Office.