

## **MID-AMERICA TEC BY-LAWS**

**JULY 18, 2003**

**Revised – January 25, 2008**

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Believing that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core message of our Christian faith, we offer to youth and young adults the opportunity to encounter and integrate this Paschal Mystery at a time of passage into young adulthood.

Teens Encounter Christ (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 inter-generational 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.

Mid-America (MA) TEC falls under the auspices of the Diocese of Jefferson City. We are affiliated with the TEC Conference in Festus, MO. Dues are paid annually. Our fiscal year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.

### **CORE COUNCIL**

The Core Council consists of a minimum of six (6) adults and a maximum of nine (9) adults and two (2) young adults (age 17-21). [Husband and wife can serve as one, but will have only one vote. Before each council meeting, one of the two will be recognized as the voting member for that meeting.]

Terms will be for three (3) years and members will be eligible to serve two (2) terms; eligible again after one (1) year of being off the Core Council.

Core Council rules by consensus. If a general consensus cannot be arrived at with the Council, a vote will be taken with Core Council members only.

Nominations are obtained from the TEC Community in September and nominees are selected by the names of the nominees being placed in a box, prayed over, and drawn as lots (Acts 1: 23-26). Newly elected members begin their terms in January of the following year.

Lay Director is elected from among the Adult Core Council members (in odd years) and term is for two (2) years. The past Lay Director then serves as a Core Council member until the newly elected Lay Director's prior term ends.

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR CORE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- 1) A practicing Catholic Christian.
- 2) Has been involved in TEC for at least two (2) years.
- 3) Has the desire to work with youth.
- 4) Attend required meetings following each TEC weekend.
- 5) Make decisions in TEC's best interest.

## **MA TEC SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

- 1) Priest is appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City.
- 2) Is a liaison between the Council and the priests of the Diocese and between the Council and the Bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City.
- 3) Provide for the spiritual needs of the TEC Council.
- 4) Provide theology and education of the TEC process.
- 5) Attendance of TEC Council meetings when possible.

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR LAY DIRECTOR**

- 1) Must have served on Adult Team a **minimum** of four (4) times: one in the capacity of Director, Assistant Director, Super Wheat and one in another role of Adult Team member.
- 2) Served on Core Council at least one (1) term and an active member of the General Council.
- 3) Must be actively living their Christian faith.

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR TEC WEEKEND DIRECTORS**

- 1) Must have served on Adult Team a minimum of three (3) times: one in the capacity of Assistant Director and Super Wheat, and one in another role of Adult Team member.
- 2) Must have given a minimum of two (2) meditations.
- 3) Must be actively living their Christian faith.
- 4) First time Weekend Directors must be recommended by at least two (2) Weekend Directors and/or Spiritual Director.
- 5) Recommended age is at least 30-35 years old (life experience).
- 6) Any Weekend Director should only direct one weekend a year unless in case of emergency reasons.
- 7) Attend at least two (2) Council meetings of the General Council.

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTANT WEEKEND DIRECTORS AND SUPER WHEATS**

- 1) Minimum age of 21.
- 2) Recommended by a Weekend Director or Spiritual Director. [A major factor in this recommendation should be the person's demonstrated ability to provide spiritual direction for the Wheat Team.]
- 3) Must have served as a Wheatie and a Resource or given an adult meditation.
- 4) Must be approved by the Lay Director and/or the Spiritual Director of the TEC movement prior to asking the person to serve in this position. \*\*
- 5) If, in the opinion of those who are recommending people for these positions, they feel that the new Super Wheat or Assistant Weekend Director needs to work with someone who has experience in that position, they may recommend that he/she must work with an approved veteran.

\*\* If this position is being filled by an adult, he/she must have been on the Adult Team at least two (2) times in addition to having been on a weekend as an Observer.

\*\* If the position is being filled by an adult who has served from being on the Youth Team, he/she must have served as a Wheatie, Resource and on the Adult Team two (2) times.

### **AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS**

Amendment and changes to the By-Laws can be made annually at the January meeting. Recommended changes need to be submitted in writing to the Core Council.

## **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

Fees for TEC weekends are \$40.00 per Candidate and Observer and \$20.00 for Team Members. The Weekend Director and Spiritual Director do not pay fees due to expenses incurred as directors. (Adopted 3/21/2003)

Limitation of wheat gifts given on a weekend, by the Wheat Team, will be limited to four (4) per day. Wheat Team expenses are \$75.00 up front, limited to \$2.00 per Candidate and Observer, balance being paid before the weekend begins. If the Wheat Team chooses to spend more than the allocated amount, it is paid by the Wheat Team them. (Adopted 3/21/2003, Revised 10/3/2003)

Sexual abuse screening forms will be filled out yearly by each individual serving on a TEC Weekend. All persons working with TEC will be required to attend the VIRTUS Workshop. (Adopted 3/21/2003, Revised 10/3/2003)

A TEC Weekend should consist of 16 Candidates and Observers for a weekend to take place. Applications and both reference forms should be completed and in the TEC Office ten (10) days prior to the upcoming weekend or the weekend may be cancelled. Exceptions to the above guidelines must be approved by the Lay Director and the Spiritual Director of Mid-America TEC. (Adopted 3/21/2003, Revised 10/3/2003, Revised 10/25/08)

Team Members are making a commitment, when asked to be on a team, to attend all team meetings, reunion, and the following Hoot. (Adopted 3/22/1996, Revised 10/3/2003)

The Adult Resources are to be seated at the table at the beginning of the weekend, at the same time as the Resources and Candidates are seated. (Adopted 3/21/2003, Revised 10/3/2003)

Candidates will be 17 years of age to attend a TEC Weekend in our TEC center. **(To be reevaluated in January 2006.)**

Complete Bibles (OT, NT and Psalms) were chosen to be used on the weekends instead of only the New Testament we are currently using. (Adopted 11/22/1998, Revised 10/3/2003)

The Revised Manual from the TEC Conference will be used as a guide for our TEC Center. Journaling was begun by the Candidates after each mediation, before table sharing. (Adopted 3/26/1999, Revised 10/3/2003)

As a Christian Community, we will tithe ten percent (10%) of our Hoot collections to a charity of choice. (Adopted 3/26/1999, Revised 10/3/2003)

As the Weekend Director calls for Team Members, courtesy should be given to the upcoming Weekend Director to form that team first, before any future director begins forming his/her team.

## **GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CORE COUNCIL**

Membership consists of:

- Lay Director(s) with two (2) year term
  - Spiritual Director (appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese)
  - Two (2) Adults for a three (3) year term
  - Two (2) Adults for a two (2) year term
  - Two (2) Adults for a one (1) year term
  - Two (2) Young Adults for a one (1) year term (17-21 years old)  
[Six **adults** will serve on a three (3) year rotating term.]
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- A. Two (2) Adults and two (2) Young Adults will be elected in January each year, at the regular meeting of the General Council.
  - B. Council members can be elected for two (2) consecutive terms, eligible again after one (1) year of absence from the Core Council.
  - C. A nomination committee will be appointed by the Core Council several months before the election to make recommendations. Nominations will also be open to all TECites at the January meeting.
  - D. If a Core Council position becomes vacant for any reason before the person(s) term is up, the Lay Director(s) and Spiritual Director will appoint someone to fill that vacancy.
  - E. All Adult Core Council members are required to have been Weekend Directors, at least once, or served on the Adult Team at least three (3) times.
  - F. The Core Council can be called into Closed Session by any Council member.
  - G. If a general consensus cannot be reached by the General Council, a vote will be taken by Core Council members only.
  - H. Husband and wife may serve together, but will have only one vote. Before each Council Meeting, one of the two will be recognized as the voting member for that meeting.

## **CRITERION OF CORE COUNCIL MEMBER**

### **I. Adults**

- A. Willing to make a commitment for three (3) years.
- B. Capable of creating and sustaining relationship(s).
- C. Presently in an adult faith-sharing Christian Community (outside of TEC).
- D. Willing to enter into communion and dialogue with:
  - 1. Youth and Young Adults.
  - 2. Tutor them in their faith as they seek meaning and commitment.
- E. Active in TEC activities.

### **II. What to look for in adults for the Core Council**

- A. Look at their Giftedness from God as FATHER.
  - 1. Good common sense. Balanced view and style of life.
  - 2. A sense of personal value. Knowing self and knowing to whom you belong.
- B. Look at their Giftedness from God as BROTHER.
  - 1. Have a circle of friends that Jesus is one of its number.
  - 2. Looks at TEC, not as a task or procedure, but concern with the quality of communal sharing of love.
  - 3. Loves with Head and the Heart.
- C. Look at their Giftedness from God as HOLY SPIRIT.
  - 1. Be a Balance person
    - a. Not too conservative and rigid
    - b. Understands that youth are in a period of “Questioning Faith”
  - 2. Not be too Spiritual
    - a. Come down from the Mountain and willing to work in the VALLEY.

### **III. Young Adults**

- A. Willing to make a commitment for one (1) year.
- B. Be open for growth.
- C. Able to express their point of view, yet willing enough to listen to adult experience.
- D. Seeking a deeper relationship with the FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT.
- E. Be active in TEC activities.