

Mission and Goals for the DFW Area Lay Councils, September, 2006.

WHO SPONSORS THIS LAY COUNCIL?

Individuals from the Dallas Open Window Group and Tarrant County Voices For Renewal met July 12, 2006, and agreed to form a Board in order to form and facilitate the First Metroplex Lay Council.

So although there are several local groups supporting the initiative, the official sponsorship is by the individuals forming the **DFW Metroplex Lay Council Board**. **There are twelve members on this first planning Board**. Voices For Renewal voted to lend its 501,c,3 status in order to provide for the logistics.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MISSION AND GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE FIRST LAY COUNCIL?

The mission and goals statements were revisited repeatedly, and finally at a September 13, 2006, meeting were simplified to the following:

Mission:

To provide an opportunity for attendees to re-vision their role in the Church in order to promote open collaboration within it.

Goals of the First Council:

1. To provide information on the rights/responsibilities of the laity within Canon Law.
2. To lay the framework for future lay councils, if so desired.
Board members came to a consensus that the goals of any future councils, if any, must come out from the First Council and may not even be made by this Board but instead from the Council participants themselves.

General Guidelines To Govern Lay Council Participation:

To speak and act out of a committed, informed and positive framework.

To respect the rights and obligations of all.

To speak the truth with love, even if this proves unpopular.

To listen and learn from one another allowing the Spirit to transform both the Church and ourselves from within.

We love the Church, therefore we speak out.