



Local clergy group meets with government officials on housing, levees

07:11 PM CST on Saturday, March 18, 2006

WWLTV.com

The local group, All Congregations Together or "A.C.T.", met with local, state and federal leaders Saturday.

The group, mainly consisting of local clergy, expressed concerns over slow progress in many of the city's neighborhoods.

A.C.T. and the PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) National Network shared needs and concerns with U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and other state and local leaders. This meeting marked the sixth of its kind in the last month.

"This morning, our focus is on making sure that promises made are promises kept," said Rev. Cory Sparks of the Carrolton United Methodist church and A.C.T. member.

Local, state and federal leaders have promised to get people back into their homes. A.C.T. believes leaders also need to ensure that people are living in safe areas - meaning improved levees as well as flood and police protection.

Senator Landrieu responded to the demands for housing and safety. Her goal, she said, is to get the appropriations committee - which she is a member of - to pass another \$4 billion for recovery and rebuilding efforts. That would be in addition to the \$6 billion passed before Christmas.

She wants to spend the money on levee protection and coastal restoration, among other things.

Landrieu and other leaders urged those in attendance at the meeting to continue their own work in restoring local communities.

Members of ACT said housing remains their biggest concern. ACT plans to continue work over the next six months in an effort to get more people back into area homes.

Leaders assured those at the meeting that they will support the group in rebuilding the communities.

Online at: <http://www.wwltv.com/local/stories/031806cckrWwltvlocalclergy.3af38eb7.html>