

Gulf Coast Relief Conference Call
March 21, 2006
11am EST, 10 CST

Present: Meg Riley, Joe Sullivan, Marilee Baccich, Martha Thompson, Eunice Benton, Steve Crump, Becky Cureau, Jacqueline Luck

1. Report From Marilee Baccich about New Orleans and Baton Rouge Organizing

- a. In Baton Rouge, staff and volunteers are trying to make organizational shifts so the steering committee is a working committee and not just planning.
- b. Current needs are:
 - More public visibility as Unitarian Universalists.
 - Housing for volunteers. Options include working with other groups on joint projects, working in Southwest Louisiana where more housing is available and the need for work is great, or trying to find independent housing for volunteers in New Orleans
 - More organized volunteer opportunities. Marilee is looking to organize 1 week every month for volunteers to sign up to work that would include Anti-Oppression training.
 - More connection and communication with the panel.

2. Needs/Possibilities for GA 2006, St. Louis, MO include:

- a. communication of the work of the panel and groups
- b. fundraising-for Baton Rouge group, not necessarily panel
- c. future planning for disaster relief—(UUA, not panel)

3. District Spring Gatherings

- There will be presentations on GCRF work at Southwest and Mid-South spring meetings.

4. Report from Becky Cureau

Becky introduces new proposal for \$1000 to match congregational gifts of \$500 each to Jefferson Presbyterian Church for energy for use of church.

→VOTE: Panel votes to grant onetime \$1000 to pay for use of Jefferson church with matching funds from First UU Church of New Orleans and Community UU, New Orleans at \$500 each. *Important in future to set at least 48 hrs time to look at proposals before vote. Grant requests should be sent to Gulfcoastrelief@uua.org or to panel list by Sunday before Tuesday meetings. Megan will send email to groups to remind of 48 hr deadline.*

5. Report from Martha Thompson

- a. Community Working Group is working on 4 or 5 grants in the New Orleans area.
- b. Community Group is looking more towards developing work in the southern and river parishes and Mississippi.

6. Report from Eunice Benton

- a. Several small groups are in an active email exchange within the Mississippi group around putting together disaster plan for Mississippi presentation on 4/8.

Call ended 1pm EST, 12 noon CST