

## **Gulf Coast Relief Conference Call Report**

**April 18, 2006 10am CST, 11am EST**

**Present:** Eunice Benton, Becky Cureau, Steve Crump, Joe Sullivan, Meg Riley, Jacqueline Luck

**Not Present: Martha Thompson.**

### **1. Check-ins from panel members on updates since last meeting.**

-Representatives of the Veach Fund are in Gulf Coast as of 4-18-2006.

### **2. Reports from Working Groups**

#### **a. Becky Cureau-New Orleans Group (N.O.)**

- Group is continuing work on the strategic plan.
- Discussion of partner churches.
- There was a discussion of evacuation plan (if needed) for 2006 hurricane season.
- There was a discussion of the burden on congregations to organize volunteers. There was an agreement for the N.O. strategic planning group with the input of moderator Gini Courter to write grant for PT volunteer coordinator.
  - Discussion among panel for clarification on community organizer positions and communication between Baton Rouge and New Orleans groups.
  - Panel suggests that the Baton Rouge and New Orleans groups need to meet to articulate gaps in service and coordination. If gaps in services are apparent, communication needs to improve before a grant is composed.

#### **b. Eunice Benton: Mississippi Working Group**

- At the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the group worked on disaster response preparedness and networking. Members shared a draft resource manual.
  - Panel raises concerns about and discusses duplication of efforts to draft a disaster response manual. Communication is needed between different groups working on similar resources.
- MS Group is interested in a community minister to support the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The portfolio would include advocacy, volunteer coordination, coordination with UUSC community groups, ¼ time support for the Gulf Port congregation. MS group is standing by for proposal on such a position from Eunice Benton, Jacqueline Luck, Jinnie Trubulski, a seminary graduate who has been volunteering on the Coast, and Martha Thompson.

### **3. Communications**

#### **a. Website Suggestions**

Panel walks through website <http://www.uua.org/news/gulfcoastrelief/> together to give suggestions for rearrangements to administrator Megan Joiner. Megan will come up with draft of changes.

#### **b. Partner Congregations and Volunteers**

Joe Sullivan shares that First Unitarian Church of San Antonio President, Diane Dusterhoff, has provided constructive feedback on how the panel can better communication with local congregations regarding community grants. Panel brainstorms suggestions for improving communications.

#### **c. General Assembly 2006**

General discussion of communications needs for GA.

### **4. Future Meetings**

Tuesday, 5/2: 1pm-3pm CEN, 2pm-4pm EST

Tuesday, 5/16: 10am-12pm CEN, 11am-1pm EST