

New Orleans Strategic Planning Group Advisory Board

Summary of Telephone Meeting
April 26, 2006
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Our charge: The strategic planning group shall envision and design a plan for a vibrant, robust Unitarian Universalist congregational presence in a rebuilt New Orleans. The plan should encompass the vision and needs of particular congregations but be focused holistically and systemically, rather than atomistically, on how Unitarian Universalism might be strongest and most vital in the greater New Orleans area.

Phone participants: Burton Carley, Wayne Clark, Becky Cureau, Mary An Godshall, Dick Harris, Jim VanderWeele and Mark Westergard.

Check-In

North Shore

- The Reverend Arthur Vaeni, minister of the Olympia, Washington UU Congregation, has just finished a three-week visit to North Shore. Dick reports that Arthur was quite helpful.

Community

- Some members of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, Connecticut have offered to make personal calls to away-from-New Orleans members and friends of Community Church. The calls will serve as a pastoral check-in with the evacuees. The second purpose of the calls will be to determine the preferred vision of Community congregants. The West Hartford folks will specifically ask questions like: Will you be returning to New Orleans? Are you supportive of developing deeper coordination with First Unitarian? Do you prefer to rebuild the church on the current site? Build on another site? Rent temporary space for worship services? Jim hopes that the calls will occur in June.

First UU

- A successful tri-church Earth Day service was conducted. There were 100+ people in attendance for this outdoor service.
- First Presbyterian (across the street from First UU) has invited First UU to meet in their space. This opportunity would provide more space for the religious education program. No decision has been made.

- There has been no specific date established for the congregation to return to its sanctuary.
- The congregation is currently creating a new vision statement.
- Paul ___?___, a volunteer carpenter from Brooklyn, New York, organized the work party of youth from Needham, Massachusetts. Marta reports that the effort was well supervised and much work was completed.

Action Item #1: Wayne will send travel and expense forms to each group member.

Action Item #2: Burton will send each member a summary of the recent meeting with Steve Crump, Gini Courter and others.

Action Item #3: Wayne will send the group information about the Florida district evacuation plan. And here it is:

<http://www.floridadistrict.org/flyers/hurricanepreparednessmanual705.pdf>.

Action Item #4: Burton will ask (at the district meeting) which congregations would like to participate in creation of the disaster evacuation plan.

North Shore will soon discuss an evacuation plan. Community has discussed a plan but haven't yet asked if people would like to have a specific place to go if evacuation is necessary.

Action Item #5: Burton will resend his congregational letter to the group.

Action Item #6: Dick will confirm, with Marilyn, that we can meet at her home.

Next Meeting: May 12th and 13th 2006
512 Codifer Blvd.
Metairie, LA
(Marilyn's home)

Agenda

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| Friday morning: | Check-in Review progress to date and preview of our next steps Report on each of the six action items |
| Friday afternoon: | Discuss meeting with Gini Courter, Steve Crump and others Update on New Orleans evacuation plans Review status of strategic planning themes |
| Saturday: | Continue work on strategic plan themes Individual (by church) conversations with Wayne regarding cash-flow projections |