

Gulf Coast Conference Call, May 16, 2006, Begin 10am CST, 11CST

Present: Becky Cureau, Joe Sullivan, Steve Crump, Meg Riley, Jacqueline Luck, Martha Thompson

Not-Present: Eunice Benton (on sabbatical)

1. Reports from Working Groups

A. New Orleans Strategic Planning Group –Becky Cureau

- The Working Group met on May 13th and 14th. Strategic planning is underway.
- Group met in-person meeting in New Orleans last week, welcomed a new member, Pat Callair from North Carolina, and met with community partners who gave reports on their work. On her trip to the Gulf Coast Martha Thompson also met with Gulf Coast Fellowship and with Mississippi community partners and is pleased with the progress.

C. Mississippi Strategic Planning Group — Jacqueline Luck

- The Strategic Planning group has met twice and is moving forward.

2. **APPROVED: Request for funds for Mississippi Gulf Coast Volunteer Organizer and Community Minister**
\$57,528 from the community fund.

This position will offer coordination and volunteer support for the UUSC-funded partners, provide volunteer coordination for UUs seeking to help in post-Katrina recovery efforts, and provide ministry support for the Gulf Coast UU Fellowship and networking with other Mississippi UU congregations. This position will serve the Gulf Coast UU Fellowship ¼ time, and serve as volunteer coordinator ¾ time. To be filled immediately. Explanation of proposal by Martha Thompson and Panel discussion on communications and coordination of Volunteer Program.

3. **APPROVED: Proposal for Gulf Coast Volunteer Coordination Working Group**

Discussion of need for new working group with representatives from the panel, the Mississippi Strategic Planning Group, New Orleans Strategic Planning Group, Community Working Group, Baton Rouge Coordination Staff, UUSC Work Camp Staff, a non-Gulf Coast congregation, and the newly approved Mississippi Coordination Staff. The proposed Gulf Coast Volunteer Working Group will be funded primarily by the Community Fund and report through the GCRF Panel.

5. **APPROVED: Request for Funds for Project Manager (PM)—Meg Riley**

An independent consultant, namely Joe Sullivan, would work on the areas of the Gulf Coast Relief work which need more support including: communications (internal and external), evaluation of completed and current projects and reflection on how to improve, management of projects, research for future projects and resources. The PM position would be funded by the entire GCR Fund as a program expense, not an administrative expense. Evaluation of the PM position will begin in October 2006 and be completed by the decision date of December 31st when it will be renewed or terminated.

6. Communications

Megan Joiner (GCRF Administrator) briefs Panel on website changes. Website will be updated the week of May 22, 2006.

7. Racism, Oppression, and Gulf Coast Relief—Meg Riley

Panel has a general discussion on accountability and the need for common values and commitment to Anti-Racism (AR) and Anti-Oppression (AO) work and training in conjunction to Gulf Coast Relief Work. Part of goals of volunteer programs should be increased awareness of oppression and advocacy on issues of social justice.

Call Ended: 12:25pm CST; 1:25pm EST