

Gulf Coast Relief Funding Panel Conference Call Report Friday, September 29, 2006

Present: Meg Riley, Steve Crump, Martha Thompson, Joe Sullivan, Jacqueline Luck, Rebecca Cureau, Eunice Benton, Megan Joiner (administrator)

A. Personal Check-In from Panel Members

B. Reports from Working Groups

1. Mississippi Working Group Report:

Gulf Port Congregation doing well. New members in the congregation and positive work being done with Jinnie Trabulsi as she settles in to Mississippi Gulf Coast.

2. Community Group Report and Grant Proposals:

a. APPROVED—Proposal for “The Porch”

Discussion of concerns especially those of Becky Cureau, who grew up in the 7th Ward, and asks for geographic and historic clarification in the description of the 7th Ward in the proposal. Particularly problematic is the description of the area as having escaped flooding.

From the Grant Proposal

Organizational Mission: The Porch is a cultural organization committed to the Seventh Ward Area of New Orleans. The Porch seeks to promote and sustain the cultures of the neighborhood, city, and region and to foster exchange between cultural groups. The Porch is a place where all can come to do and share their culture, and to take care of each other and each others' communities.

→**VOTE:** Meg Riley moves to fund this project for the requested \$25,000. Jacqueline Luck seconds. Motion Passes.

3. New Orleans Working Group Report

Next conference call will be October 11. Next face-to-face meeting will be in New Orleans November 17-18th

4. Volunteer Advisory Group Report

Last meeting was September 13th

New Orleans: Phase II of the New Orleans Volunteer Coordinator is in progress. Emily Danielson will be the new volunteer coordinator in New Orleans thru February 2007. Emily McCleese's last day is September 30th.

Mississippi: Discussion of difficulty of Mississippi coordinator Jinnie Trabulsi (JT) finding partners in to work on building. Not very many groups are building due to lack of funding. Discussion of possibilities for other volunteer efforts other than building: Childcare, census, etc.

Anti-Racism: JT, Pat Callair, Jyaphia Chritos Rogers, Martha Thompson, Marilee Baccich had meeting about Anti-Racism training. Agreement was that Pat and Jyaphia will produce a curriculum for all groups over four people who will be there for 4-5 days or more by mid-October. The title will be “Orientation on Race and Class in Katrina.” A possible smaller curriculum will be created for groups coming for 1-3 days.

Partner Churches:

Partner Church requests will be handled by District Executives, not by the Panel. Discussions will follow this call and basic info will be distributed to interested congregations.

5. Long Term Planning

Meg Riley and Martha Thompson are coordinating evaluation and long term planning efforts with UUA and UUSC administrations. During the week of October 23-30th Meg and Martha and other staff members will meet with partners in Gulf Coast. This will be a fact finding mission leading to discussions with administrations about future planning.

6. Panel plans to meet in New Orleans December 11-12.

Report respectfully submitted by Megan Joiner.