

Gulf Coast Relief Conference Call--Report

Friday, October 13, 2006 10am CST 9am EST

Present: Joe Sullivan, Eunice Benton, Steve Crump, Becky Cureau, Martha Thompson, Meg Riley, Megan Joiner (Administrator) **Not Present:** Jacqueline Luck

1. Personal Check-ins

- **Steve Crump** shares that the Baton Rouge Congregation will have a Louisiana Delta Service Corps Volunteer working at the congregation for 2006-2007 working mostly on advocacy.

2. Working Group Reports

a. Mississippi Working Group

- The Sunday gathering at Our Home Universalist Unitarian for the 100 year anniversary of the congregation was a great success with UUs from around the area in attendance.
- Trainings for Sunday services and "Sunday Circuit Sharing" program also are successes.
- The MS group is planning an Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression cluster training January 2007.

b. New Orleans Working Group

- A Strategic Plan developed by the New Orleans Strategic Planning Group has been presented to and voted for acceptance by the Boards of all three N.O. churches. The Strategic Plan can be individualized to suit the needs of each congregation within specific themes or interest areas. The Plan has a 5-year timeframe.
- The congregations are currently calling themselves the Greater New Orleans Unitarian Universalists, but are eager to coordinate with other gulf coast congregations in a cluster.

Approval of Grants from New Orleans Congregations

- →**VOTE** Steve Crump motions that we accept all three grants for extended salaries for one year for a total of \$277,402. Becky Cureau seconds. MOTION passes.

c. Volunteer Advisory Group

- Steve: All Congregations Together (ACT) announced with Common Ground that they want 250 volunteers/day to gut homes in the Ninth Ward. Discussion of how to get UUs involved.
- DEs who received Joe and Eunice's call for volunteers will contact Baton Rouge. Mountain Desert and Pacific Northwest districts are expressing interest.

3. Update on October 2006 Trip by Meg Riley, Martha Thompson and Joe Sullivan

- The trip Thurs 10-26- Sunday 10-29 is a fact finding trip NOT site visits. Meg, Martha and Joe be visiting with participants and recommending how to continue relief efforts once funds are spent. Meetings will be held with key players; partner organizations, congregations, staff. This trip will allow the UUA and UUSC to have the best info possible about current efforts and needs. **ACTION: Meg, Martha and Joe communicate with congregations and other key players some questions and generally what kind of information they are looking for before they arrive.**
- Brief Panel Discussion of Baton Rouge 5-year proposal. **ACTION: Steve will send proposal to New Orleans congregations on 10/13.**

4. Update on Assessment

- Web based assessment of Gulf Coast Relief Work is being sent to all players asking people to participate as respondents to questionnaire on UUA/UUSC disaster response. Questionnaires should be completed by end of October and compiled by Megan and Joe for a comprehensive report during November.

5. Update on December 11-12 meeting in New Orleans

6. Meeting Times

- Thursday October 26, 2006
7am-8:30am CST, 8-9:30am EST
- Thursday November 9th
11am-12:30pm CST,
12pm-1:30pm EST
- Monday November 27th

Call ended 10:45CST, 11:45pm EST Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner