

Gulf Coast Relief Conference Call Summary Report  
11/9/2006  
Beginning 11am CST/12pm EST

**Present:** Joe Sullivan, Eunice Benton, Rebecca Cureau, Steve Crump, Martha Thompson, Jacqueline Luck, Meg Riley

**1. Check Ins—Panel shares personal and professional check-ins**

**2. Reports from working groups**

**a. Community Working Group—Martha Thompson**

- UU World article features partners

**3. Discussion of timeframe for end of funding panel—Meg Riley**

- The New Orleans Working Group will transition beginning with their November meeting
- The Community Group is looking at a March-April timeframe for wrapping up their work.
- The panel's work will NOT end at end of 2006

**4. Report on Fact Finding Mission—Meg Riley, Joe Sullivan, Martha Thompson**

- October 26-31<sup>st</sup> trip was centered on how volunteer piece of the relief effort might continue after 2006.
- Meg, Joe and Martha visited 6 partners, 5 congregations (including 1 partner congregation), a volunteer group and contractor.

**a. Report on meetings with Community Partners—Martha Thompson**

- The group met with the following partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services

All Congregations Together (ACT)

Zion Travelers Cooperative

Turkey Creek Community Initiative

STEPS coalition

Gulf Coast Baptist Missionary Society

- Focus is now developing the on-going need into viable a volunteer program with smooth working situations with partners by working to cement relationships with partners. Partners' anxiety about future funding has led Martha to work on forming long-term relationships for partners with large foundations.

**b. Report on Meetings with Congregations—Meg Riley**

- While the focus of the trip was the volunteer program, most discussions with congregational representatives were not limited in their scope. The main conclusion is that more and better organized support is needed for Gulf Coast Congregations, and coordinating staff.

**c. Report on Volunteer Program specifics**

- Large congregational groups should be encouraged. (25-30 people) Individuals and small groups are harder to accommodate in both MS and N.O.
- Partner Churches need to be drawn into volunteer network as least enough to know which ones are planning their own trips and the who, what, when and where of those trips. Partner Churches are a huge asset especially because of their ties with the emotional well being of gulf coast congregations.

**d. Further Conclusions:**

- In meeting with Bill Sinkford, Charlie Clements, Kay Montgomery and Harlan Limpert (UUA District Services) it was determined that the UUA/UUSC partners is beneficial. Becoming clear that UUSC has a closer mission-oriented tie with volunteer piece, UUA more with congregational support.

**Next Call:** 11/27 8cst, 9est; Panel will be joined by members of the outgoing New Orleans Working Group.

Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner