

Gulf Coast Panel Conference Call—Summary Report
February 7, 2007 11:30am CST; 12:30pm EST

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

1. Check-ins

2. Meeting with Kay Montgomery

a. Panel brainstorms agenda for meeting with Kay Montgomery who will join this call

Purpose is to clarify with Kay the process as the panel faces final grant proposals.

It is agreed by panel members that the panel is empowered by the administration to make all financial decisions including those at the end of the funding period. The panel agrees that they want clarity on this point from Kay

Conclusions:

- *The final decision on when the work of the panel is finished is up to the members of the panel. The Board of Trustees has no preconceived timeline.*
- *Final decisions on funding are at the discretion of the panel.*
 - *CONGREGATIONAL: The panel seeks formal proposals from the Southwest and Mid-South districts with general categories of spending, but will NOT approve itemized spending projects. All proposals from New Orleans congregations will come from the cluster of congregations only; the panel will not approve individual grants. It is understood that the cluster will be in consultation with Susan Smith to determine how the funds will be spent. Likewise, Gulf Port will be in consultation with Eunice Benton on how to best use funds distributed to them. This leads to a discussion of how these proposals will be handled by Susan Smith (SW) and Eunice Benton (M-S) (see 2d).*
 - *COMMUNITY: Final grant proposals will be fielded by the panel at the end of April 2007.*
- *A starter grant for the new volunteer program will come out of the community funds. The future volunteer program will be funded using funds raised separately by the UUA and UUSC. The program will NOT be under the jurisdiction of the panel.*

3. Congregational Funds

The Funding Panel asks Eunice Benton (in relationship with Gulf Port Congregation) and Susan Smith (already in relationship with the New Orleans congregational cluster) to bring recommendations (in the form of general grant proposals) for discretionary spending of remaining congregational funds back to the Panel.

5. Report on Stakeholders Meeting: January 31-February 2.

- Meeting discussed the transition of the Volunteer Program from Baton Rouge to UUSC. The meeting in Boston was a visioning session. Over the next few days, Joe, Martha, Kim McDonald, and Meg will be considering input and creating a plan for transition to the new program. The program will focus on group trips from congregations, not individual volunteers and will remain in solidarity in working with current Gulf Coast partners

6. Next Meetings

- Next call will be Feb 21st 11:30am CST, 12:30pm EST

Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner