

Gulf Coast Relief Conference Call—Summary Report
February 21, 2007 11:30am; 12:30pm

Present: Becky Cureau, Steve Crump, Joe Sullivan, Meg Riley, Gretchen Alther (for Martha Thompson), Jacqueline Luck

1. Check ins

2. Mississippi Update

The Gulfport congregation would welcome funds that could enable them to participate in a 'yoked ministry' with the Ellisville, MS (Our Home Universalist Unitarian) church. This would be a contract ministry, year by year. President Keitha Whitaker and Eunice Benton agreed that Keitha would assess their financial situation and that they would talk again the first of March.

3. New Orleans Update

- Meg has been in communication with Susan Smith. Cluster will move ahead with hiring Larry Wheeler as a fundraising consultant. They are ready to use remaining funds to do that and ready for transfer of funds.
- *Next call:* General “proposals” from Mississippi and New Orleans groups should be ready for approval. Should be on the congregational form for bookkeeping needs and include general descriptions of how the final grant will fit into the trajectory of funding and recovery for both groups. Possibility, if needed in a more timely manner, for panel to approve New Orleans funds through email. *Panel approves.*

4. Baton Rouge/Volunteer Update

- In general, volunteer program is going well. This has been a big week for Mardi Gras. Concerns over seemingly slow hiring process for getting staff on the ground.
- *Update on UUSC Hiring Process*—applications coming in and conversations going on. Definitely moving forward. It is agreed that it is important to wait for the right hire rather than speed up the process. Marilee, Cheré and Linda Cooper working through April will help with overlap. Goal is to get someone in by mid-March.

5. Volunteer Program Grant

Goal: To support a seven-week transition of the current Gulf Coast volunteer program to a national-level program run jointly by the UUA and UUSC and to continue improving the opportunity for UU congregations to live and grow in their faith by their volunteer experience in the Gulf Coast.

Requested Grant Amount: \$ 28,097 as first part of program grants.

The UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast volunteer program will start on April 1, 2007 and run for eighteen months, bringing congregations to the Gulf Coast. The overall program budget is approximately \$270,000 for 18 months. The UUA and the UUSC requests some funds from the Gulf Coast working group for community funds to support the seven-week transition period. The UUA-UUSC will jointly fundraise for the remaining costs of the entire program.

Motion for approval: Joe Sullivan motions to approve for \$28,097

Second: Becky Cureau

→VOTE: MOTION IS APPROVED

7. Next Meetings:

- **March 14th** and **March 28th**

Call ended 12:30pm CST, 1:30pm CST *Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner*

