

Gulf Coast Relief Fund Panel Conference Call Summary Report
Wednesday, May 9, 2007
12:30pm EST; 11:30am CST

Present: Meg Riley, Becky Cureau, Steve Crump, Jacqueline Luck, Joe Sullivan, Gretchen Alther, Eunice Benton, Megan Joiner (administrator)

1. Congregational Funds

a. Remaining Funds

Remaining Congregational funds at time fund is declared closed will be allocated 90% to the UUA's Southwest District for benefit of the Greater UU New Orleans cluster congregations—First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans, Community Church Unitarian Universalist of New Orleans, North Shore Unitarian Universalists of LaCombe, Louisiana—and 10% to the Mid-South district for the benefit of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Joe Sullivan moves as stated above

Steve Crump seconds

→VOTE: Motion is Approved

2. Community Fund

a. Remaining Funds

Community working group should propose a suggestion for what to do with remaining funds at their meeting in early June. Panel will discuss motion at their last meeting on Monday, June 11th 11:30 CST and 12:30 EST.

b. Community Grant Proposals

**i. East Biloxi Coordination, Relief, and Redevelopment Agency
(current partner)**

Requested Grant Amount: \$25,000. This amount will allow EBCRRA to hire a Construction Manager for a little over three months. \$20,000 from Community Fund and \$5,000 from UUSC foundation.

→VOTE: Motion Approved for \$20,000 from the Community Fund.

ii. Mississippi ACLU

Goal: To provide organizational strengthening for the three to five grassroots groups (current community partners) on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that are working on rights issues post-Katrina. ACLU will act as fiscal sponsor, Nsombe Lambright, employee of the MS ACLU, will act as a representative of the UUA-UUSC Community working group to work with a consultant to do strategic planning on the ground with partners.

Requested Grant Amount: \$45,150

→VOTE: Motion Approved for \$45,150 from the Community Fund

**iii. Advancement Project
(current partner)**

Grant for \$30,000—\$20,000 from Community Funds and \$10,000 from UUSC directly.

Goal: To re-open public housing in New Orleans by continuing to litigate the Anderson case; ensure that residents play an active role in the decision making process relating to future of public housing.

→VOTE: Motion approved for \$20,000 from the Community Fund

**iv. New Orleans Network
(current partner)**

Requested Grant Amount: \$20,000 for Parent Resource Guide and Strategic Alliance Development

Goal: To fulfill NON's mission (education, communication, and convening). The project will establish and support a framework for collaboration and coalition building. NON is working Moving Forward Gulf Coast (MFGC). The main activities supported by this grant will be: a. Strategic alliance building, b. Parent educational guide, c. Community calendar undertaken by MFGC, d. Directory of organizations undertaken by MFGC.

→VOTE: Motion approved for \$20,000 from the Community Fund

**v. Moving Forward Gulf Coast
(new partner in Slidell thanks to the North Shore congregation)**

Requested Grant Amount: \$20,000

Goal: To create tools and spaces that allow community organizations along the Gulf Coast to come together and advocated for real change. As part of its overall mission to provide community advocacy and training, MFGC is creating a series of media learning tools—the Recover and Restore Series—that documents issues identified by residents and community groups relays solutions to those residents who need it most.

→VOTE: motion approved for \$20,000 from the Community Fund

3. UUSC Board Meeting Report

Gretchen reports that the UUSC Board was pleased with how partners are addressing issues of racism and classism that are obvious on the ground on the Gulf Coast and with the new partnership between the UUA-UUSC.

4. Discussion of 2007 hurricane season and Louisiana legislative session

5. Disucssion of future U UWORLD and other UU coverage of partners in the future.

7. Last call will be June 11th 11:30 CST and 12:30 EST

Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner