

Summary Report from the Gulf Coast Relief Funding Panel  
Conference Call  
November 15, 2005

**Present:** Eunice Benton, Rev. Steve J. Crump, Dr. Rebecca Cureau, Rev. Jacqueline Luck, Rev. Meg Riley, Joe Sullivan

1. Discussion of Grants:
  - A. The Panel discussed details and minor changes to the Estimated Expenses of the proposal for Community Ministry, previously submitted by the UU Church of Baton Rouge.
  - B. The Panel discussed potential prerequisites for the person to be hired as the community minister at the UU Church of Baton Rouge. They also discussed distinctions between the expectations/responsibilities of the two positions (volunteer coordinator and community minister). Other details of the positions and hiring process were discussed.
2. Other Business:
  - A. Joe Sullivan raised the question of whether the Panel should encourage partnerships between grassroots organizations involved in rebuilding New Orleans, and New Orleans UU churches as they rebuild. Eunice Benton suggested that this should not be an objective, though it is already happening between small UU congregations in Mississippi; Jacqueline Luck noted that there is already a demonstration of enthusiasm for such partnering. Meg Riley reported a specific request of a UU church in California to partner with a community organization.
  - B. Meg Riley acknowledged Joe Sullivan's e-mail in which he offered a framework of overarching questions or considerations for the Panel's work, and suggested that it would be helpful for Panel members to give similar input and feedback.
  - C. Eunice Benton again raised the question of a slot for some kind of presentation by the Panel at the 2006 General Assembly. Meg Riley indicated that she suggested to the coordinator of GA worship service that Marta Valentin and Jim VanderWeele do a joint worship service, since they are currently conducting joint services, and that President Bill Sinkford would very much like to see Hurricane Katrina worked into the opening service. Lawrence Anderson plans to create a large panoramic poster about Gulf Coast relief efforts for GA, to include pictures, stories, and other first-hand accounts. Jacqueline Luck expressed her hope that Mississippi would be included, and was encouraged to write a letter to Anderson to that effect.
  - D. Joe Sullivan noted that Anne Heller's name was omitted from the latest chart, which Meg Riley will adjust.
  - E. Jim VanderWeele's proposal will go directly to the New Orleans group, which Burton Carley will soon convene.
  - F. The grant administered by Martha Thompson is to be used at her discretion, and requires no further response from the Panel members or its members.

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3. The next conference call of the Gulf Coast Relief Funding Panel will be Wednesday, December 1, 2005.