

Gulf Coast Relief Panel Conference Call Report
July 11, 2006 ~ Begin 1:00 PM CDT

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

Not-Present: Martha Thompson (on vacation), Megan Joiner – GCRP Administrator (on vacation)

1. Check In from all members including reflections on General Assembly

- Panel reflected on the Friday evening presentation during Plenary at GA, the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting and the support of staff at General Assembly. Thanks were expressed for the work of Megan Joiner, Cheré Coen and Jinnie Trabulsi for staffing the Gulf Coast Relief section of the Stewardship and Development booth and to Cheré and Marilee Baccich for their work in preparing the volunteer brochure.

2. Consideration of Community Grant Proposals

A. APPROVED: \$15,000 to Mississippi Immigrant Rights Association (MIRA)

Proposal: \$15,000 remainder of the original \$40,000 requested by MIRA in Nov. 2005. At the time we gave them \$25,000 and said that we would be open to funding the additional \$15,000 later. MIRA submitted a comprehensive progress report dated June 19, 2006 with their request for the additional funds.

B. APPROVED: \$75,000 to Louisiana Workers Center (LWC)

Proposal: \$124,620 to fund 50% of the first year budget for staffing and development of LWC. The goal of LWC as stated in their grant proposal is to create and launch an independent but collaborative community-based organization advocating for and organizing workers in post-Katrina New Orleans in a multi-racial, multi-industry context. OXFAM America is co-funding LWC. The Community Funds group recommends funding \$75,000 of the requested amount now, and after a budget report and discussion four months from now, consider releasing the remainder to LWC.

3. Reports from Working Groups

The panel heard reports from each of the following working groups concerning phone and face-to-face meetings that have been held and are scheduled.

A. Mississippi Strategic Planning Group – Eunice Benton. Next meeting: Saturday, July 15

B. New Orleans Strategic Planning Group – Becky Cureau: Next meeting: September.

C. Volunteer Project Advisory Group (VPAG) — Joe Sullivan

- Much work planned to follow up with potential volunteers from GA 2006. Training and staffing and reporting of volunteer trips are being discussed among the group and various sub-groups.

4. Katrina “One-Year” Anniversary

- The Panel reflected on possibilities for events and recognition around the one-year anniversary of Katrina, including reports, visits to the Gulf Coast and the importance of recognizing also the effects of Hurricane Rita.

5. Evaluation of the Work and Results of the Gulf Coast Relief Fund

- The Panel and its advisory group members will begin the evaluation process by responding to the following questions:

A. What has worked and what hasn't in the Gulf Coast Relief Fund effort?

B. How do we know?

C. What would we do differently?

- A comprehensive evaluation of the Fund will include UUA and UUSC staff, all working groups, the panel and possibly the UUA Board of Trustees.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Aug. 25 at 1:00 Central ~ Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 pm

Report respectfully submitted, Megan Joiner (gulfcoastrelief@uua.org)