

Oakley Full Gospel Baptist Church

Task Force to combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What is COVID-19? Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2). Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread was subsequently reported outside Hubei and in countries outside China, including in the United States. Some international destinations now have apparent community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as do some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed (www.cdc.org)

Why does Oakley need a task force? Leadership employed during this time will ensure timely dissemination of information to help during this pandemic, wise counsel will aid in the betterment of Oakley, her community, and the future of effective ministry.

Mandate

- Successfully strategize our way through this pandemic in combination with local, state, and federal governments.
- Mobilize effective teams around task force goals.
- Build community through participation in programs designed to positively impact those affected by COVID-19.

Task Force Members and Area of Commitment

- Deacon Stanley Gates, Diaconate Chair - Communication
- Trustee Vicki Potts, Trustee Chair - Financial Integrity
- Brother David Sawyer, Health Liaison - Community Engagement
- Elder Linda Sawyer, Ministry Liaison - Ministry Mobilization

Task Force Guidelines and Measures

The safety of our membership is of the utmost importance. Therefore, we are implementing and reiterating the following CDC guidelines:

- Wash your hands regularly with warm/hot water and soap for at least 20 seconds or more to avoid spreading germs.
- Members/guests who are currently sick with fevers of 100.4 or greater or are showing signs of a fever and any other related symptoms, should stay home.
- Members/guests who are currently taking fever-reducing or any other symptom-altering medicines should stay home.
- Members/guests who show signs of a fever, excessive coughing and/or sneezing may be asked to voluntarily quarantine themselves or leave the church to protect the safety and wellness of others.
- Members/guests should practice safe cough and sneeze etiquette and hand hygiene at the entrance to the church, meeting rooms, and sanctuary.
- To limit exposure, members/guests should exercise good judgment when greeting fellow members/ guests while at the church.
- While we are adding hand-sanitizing stations throughout the church, members/ guests are encouraged to pack your pocket-sized hand sanitizer, so you have it readily available.

While these guidelines may seem strict to some, please understand they are to protect the wellbeing and safety of those who physically attend our services and live in Columbus. We will continue monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and will advise of any modifications to our plans accordingly.

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