



A TEAM DEDICATED TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

In early March, a new coronavirus arrived in the U.S. and began its lethal attack. In response to news of the spread of COVID-19 in Atlanta, Rev. Anna George Traynham called an emergency session meeting via conference call on March 12. In that meeting, the session voted unanimously to close the campus for a two-week period to keep our congregation safe.

At its regular meeting on March 18, the session unanimously voted to affirm our commitment to follow public health guidelines and, for now, refrain from gathering in person. Shallowford closed its doors, canceling all in-person services, events, and meetings until further notice. Shallowford Presbyterian School canceled classes.

With the session's blessing, Pastor Anna recruited a task force of seven session members to meet weekly and guide Shallowford's response to COVID-19. In addition to Pastor Anna, members of the task force include Rev. Bradley Kibler, Dr. Robby Robinson, Hannah Collins, Dr. Terry O'Toole, Dr. Mike Cannon, CJ Drymon and Brad Bryant. All have backgrounds in the medical and public health fields.

"Each one of the task force members brings specific gifts and perspectives to our work, and we take the task of guiding Shallowford through this pandemic seriously and prayerfully," said Pastor Anna. "God is at work in our midst!"

As the task force facilitator, Pastor Anna leads meetings every Tuesday evening, via Zoom, to discuss the latest data and gating criteria, and to brainstorm strategies. Members identify and address concerns as they arise and make plans for Shallowford's return to in-person worship, Bible studies, Sunday School, and gatherings of all kinds, when it is safe to do so. The task force will make recommendations to the session and staff about when and how to return to the church building.

"The main challenges we experience are that the COVID-19 data is evolving daily so we must evolve along with it, taking into account both local and global voices," said Rev. Bradley Kibler. "We remain committed to leading through our faith in God, the science of COVID-19, and our experiences in the medical and public health fields in all of our discussions and decisions."

"As we make decisions about next steps, please know that we will do so in a spirit of discernment - delicately, thoughtfully and prayerfully," said Pastor Anna. "When the time is right, we plan to phase in our return to ensure the safety of our members and our staff. We are grateful for the opportunity to lead during this time, and we ask for your prayers."

RESEARCH



FAITHFULLY PLAN



COMMUNICATE



BEHIND THE MASKS

MEMBERS UNITE TO CARE FOR OUR SHALLOWFORD FAMILY SPC COVID-19 TASK FORCE PROFESSIONALS INCLUDE...



REV. ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

Anna oversees the COVID-19 Task Force and provides a clear window of thinking from her role as Senior Pastor. Anna's big picture thinking and churchwide knowledge is key in helping the group to devise a faithfully thought out plan for the congregation.



CJ DRYMON

CJ serves as Clerk of Session for Shallowford and is Treasurer and a member of the Presbyterian Women's coordinating team for Shallowford and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. CJ works in fundraising for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

REV. BRADLEY KIBLER, MPH

Bradley holds both a B.S. and a Master's in public health. She interned in multiple health-serving organizations both in Atlanta and Africa and has worked as a hospital chaplain. She also serves on the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's COVID-19 Task Force.



DR. ROBBY ROBINSON

Robby has worked in public health for 34 years and as a Dental Director for 22 years. Now that his dental clinics have been temporarily shut down due to the COVID-19 virus, Robby is working at the Gwinnett County Public Health COVID-19 testing site.



BRAD BRYANT

Brad leans on his experience of 30 years in local, state and national education and government policy. Brad will align the work of the task force's health care experts with the decisions made by the educational community to phase in the re-opening of our schools and colleges.



DR. MIKE CANNON

Mike is an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and worked for 15 years on behavioral approaches to preventing the spread of infectious diseases.



HANNAH COLLINS, NP

Hannah is a Nurse Practitioner with the Phase I Clinical Trial Program at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. She serves as a co-investigator on phase I trials and collaborates with physicians to care for patients in the Phase One Clinical Trial Unit.



DR. TERRY O'TOOLE

Terry serves as Chief of the Program Development and Evaluation Branch, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the CDC. He provides leadership and subject matter expertise to state and community-based programs, national partners, and health organizations focused on chronic disease prevention.



TOWN HALL MEETING

Learn more about the task force's work and the church's response to COVID-19. [Click HERE](#) for the ZOOM login information.

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH AT 7:00 PM

Submit your questions in advance to
spccovid19taskforce@shallowford.org