

# Clovis Christian Ministerial Alliance

## Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Saturday, November 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

**Present** : Wayne Boydston, (Parkland Baptist), Erin Burch (United Way), Bill Case (Kingswood UMC), Jorge Cruz (Chief Administrator of Plains Regional Medical Center), Jon Forrest (First Christian), Delmus Gillis (Bethlehem Baptist), Robert L. Grimes Jr. (First Church of God in Christ), Tyler Hicks (First Baptist), Michael Kirby (Central Baptist), Anthony Mahan (Triangle Baptist), Col. Rob Masaitis (CAFB), His Honor Mike Morris (Mayor of the City of Clovis), Casey Peacock (United Way), Lemuel Perry (New Life AoG), David Robinson (President of the Military Affairs Committee, The Fifty), John Rollinson (St. James' Episcopal), Shirley Rollinson (ENMU Religion Program), Eric Saed (Trinity Lutheran), Ed. Sullivan (Bethel AoG), Roxanne Swann (Faith Christian Family), Kevin Tuttle (Hillside Christian), Darrell Underwood (Servants Heart Chapel), Dean Williamson (New Life AoG), Sistar Yancy (Christian Believers' Education) , Dawn ? (unidentified), Sean ? (unidentified)

### **The Meeting was requested by Mayor Mike Morris, in consultation with Col. Masaitis and Jorge Cruz.**

Mayor Morris wanted to share what is going on with regard to COVID-19 in the community, especially in light of recent directives from the Governor. Mayor Morris had pleaded with the Governor not to close down small businesses or to restrict Churches, but the situation is escalating.

**Jorge Cruz** shared news of the situation at the Hospital : during the recent upsurge, the number of COVID-19 patients in the hospital went from 8 to 13 in one day. There are currently 34 positive in-house patients, 5 of whom are in ICU, 3 on ventilators. In the past two weeks more than 30 staff members have gone out of service due to COVID-19. Patients can no longer be transferred to higher-care facilities in Lubbock or Amarillo. The resources of the hospital are spread very thin. The crisis is real - we are losing lives because people are saying the crisis isn't real.

We all need to help by using masks, washing hands, and social distancing.

**Mayor Morris** added that he uses a mask, not out of fear, but out of obedience to the government, and because it does cut down the risk of passing the virus on to others.

**Col. Rob Masaitis** shared news of Cannon Air Force Base : There are ca. 6,000 people living or working on the Base, and several thousand others, such as military families and retired military living in the surrounding communities. There has been a large increase in positive cases of COVID-10. We cannot afford to let the workforce numbers go down - CAFB is key for Mission Critical, and for Disaster Relief in the nation (such as being called for Disaster Relief after major hurricanes). It is also a center for training for military going into combat zones. About 10% of the workforce is currently in quarantine due to COVID-19.

We can help by advocating and modeling safe COVID behaviors - Mask, Wash, Distance.

**David Robinson** (President of the Military Affairs Committee) appealed to the community to support CAFB, and to help our airmen as they face the extra burdens of this time. The military pay a high personal price for their service to the nation, and their families share in paying that price.

He appealed to the community to observe COVID restrictions. We should be aware that military families are under orders not to take part in any activities which are not in compliance with such restrictions, or to attend any events which do not observe COVID precautions. This includes worship services and other Church activities.

Jon Forest asked for clarification on how Churches were excluding airmen and their families from participation.

Col. Masaitis explained that if a Church does not observe COVID precautions, it puts an airman in the position of either having to disobey military orders, or else stop attending that Church. Many of the airmen are young, having gone from High School straight to Basic Training, and are still not mature adults. This is their first time away from home - they still need responsible role models, and need to be able to attend events which observe COVID precautions. In recent Contact Tracing of COVID cases, a number of them involved Houses of Worship where people did not wear masks, or keep Social Distancing, or where occupancy limits were not observed.

Wayne Boydston asked about delivery of Thanksgiving Baskets to families on the Base. If the families are not allowed to travel, and outsiders are not allowed on base, what is the best way to help while still keeping the Base safe?

Col. Masaitis said that he is working on the specifics for outreach and delivery - CAFB can work with individual Pastors/Churches to arrange for such ministry.

Casey Peacock asked Jorge Cruz whether all the COVID cases in the Hospital were local to Curry County. Mr. Cruz replied that the majority of patients are local, though there are a few from outside the county. PRMC has an arrangement with the Hospital in Tucumcari, and there are ways of searching for places in other hospitals - but it is not so much a question of hospital spaces, as of the availability of hospital staff. PRMC is trying to hire staff from outside the county, but is in competition with all the other hospitals who are doing likewise.

Mayor Morris added that, in addition to Hospital staff being stretched to their limits, the EMTs, Police, and all First Responders are under strain. The response time for ambulances has grown longer; the wait-time for help at accidents is increasing, as fewer staff are available and demands increase.

Kevin Tuttle thanked the Mayor and all those working with him, and asked how we can best support them. Should we go to all-online services while still trying to connect to people? How can we best live out our love and care for people?

Tyler Hicks noted that pastors who want to welcome young military families in a Church face the dilemma of recommending, or mandating, the wearing of a mask. If a family does not feel safe, they will probably stop attending.

Jon Forest brought up the question of Sunday School and Bible Studies - Face-to-face meetings in small rooms are no longer safe. He is now trying Bible Studies on Facebook. He would like to know how other Churches are coping with the situation.

Wayne Boydstun shared that Parkland Baptist had a two-week complete shut-down due to COVID in the Church. They are now trying Zoom Meetings for Bible Studies.

Mayor Morris thanked everyone for their help, and asked for our continuing prayers for him, for the community, the State, and our leaders. He referred to Romans, chapter 12, for guidance on how to live and help one another as a community.

Col. Masaitis has a list of 10 steps for safe practices which he can email to anyone who requests it.

Dean Wiliamson concluded the meeting by leading us in prayer.

*email : [clovis.christian@minister.com](mailto:clovis.christian@minister.com)  
website : <http://www.drshirley.org/CCMA/index.html>*