



Five Points of Alignment

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After 22 Town Hall meetings, six Task Force teams, and much prayer, research and counsel, a Reimagining Proposal was presented to the 2014 Foursquare cabinet. There were spirited discussions, detailed presentations, prophetic words and significant time for questions and answers.

At the conclusion of the conversations, there was a unanimous vote by this cabinet of sensing that we had landed on several (five) key things that would propel us forward in our united commitment to fulfill the Great Commission as a movement. They also voted to forward this proposal to Connection 2014 in Dallas.

Over 100 of our leaders and elders were moved several times to get on our knees in an absolute sense of utter dependency on God and a desperation for Him. Much work remains regarding details, but there is a clear sense of driving the following Five Stakes in the ground, much as Isaiah instructed Israel to do to prepare for a future season of blessing from the Lord: "Enlarge the place of your tent ... lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes" (Isa. 54:2, NIV). We also pray that this blessing would fall on the next generation.

We plan to present the full context of the Five Stakes, or Five Points of Alignment, at Connection 2014.

FIVE STAKES FOR OUR FUTURE:

- 1 Align everything Foursquare to the Great Commission (our mission):** The commitment is to make sure everything (e.g., our structures, our systems, our resources, our polity, our events) aligns to the Great Commission. We were birthed from a local church that started a movement that went global. We must recover that singular focus to mobilize everything toward the harvest. Institutions drift over time. It's the right season to integrate and synergize all of our efforts to finish the Great Commission of multiplying disciples, leaders, churches and movements.
- 2 Align the National Church Office and District Office to a catalytic culture:** Denominations have three primary characteristics: cause, community and corporation. They all start out driven by a compelling cause. That creates community and leads to corporation. Over time, corporation and community will often trump cause with most resources and energy diverted to those things. It often takes a concerted intervention to reverse that and be lead once again by cause. We want to streamline our corporation, while empowering, resourcing and celebrating our cause. Community will always help us manage that tension.
- 3 Align 100 percent of the tithe to the field (local and district):** We have been diligently working to reduce our central office expenses to release more resources to the field. We are now making a declaration with a plan, to be able to fulfill that commitment. Beginning in 2015, we are on a trajectory to contribute 70 percent of the extension tithe to our efforts in the field between the local church and our districts to finish the Great Commission, and developing a plan to eventually reach 100 percent return.
- 4 Align Foursquare Foundation to resourcing and supporting the Foursquare mission:** The Foursquare Foundation board has been committed to help resource, align and integrate our global and national efforts to finish the Great Commission. It is committed to our efforts and multiplying disciples, leaders, churches and movements. We will repurpose the process of resourcing our global family, the National Church, Foursquare Missions International, and the Risser Endowment Fund for Education. Instead of continuing the arduous process of grants, the Foundation will be a strategic catalyst for our Four-Stage Strategy and Re-imagining efforts, and finishing the Great Commission.
- 5 Align polity to provide property options for local churches:** After significant research to keep our modified Episcopal governance while giving churches more options for property oversight, this direction recovers the beginning of our movement. We firmly believe that allowing churches more opportunities to be creative with their property assets and more entrepreneurial in securing leases and loans will result in a development of healthy leadership culture at the local church. Many churches are requesting more options, and this direction allows us to move from a parent model to more of a partner model, like we are doing globally.

The Five Stakes, we believe, will result in a clear and compelling focus on the Great Commission. The Stakes decentralize, empower, integrate, align and provide significant opportunity to recover the essence of our beginnings—the local church was the epicenter of mission.

The National Church and the district offices serve as important connecting, resourcing, supporting, aligning and networking support systems. The greatest success of a parent is the success of their children. When the local church is healthy, fruitful and multiplying disciples, leaders, churches and movements, then we will have been successful.