

Corporate Bylaws

of the

International Church of

the Foursquare Gospel



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BYLAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL A Religious Corporation

These amended and restated bylaws (sometimes referred to hereafter as “these Bylaws”) are adopted by the board of directors and members of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, a religious corporation, this 2nd day of June, 2011 to carry out the specific and primary purposes of this corporation as set forth in its articles of incorporation (sometimes referred to hereafter as “the Articles”), which are to maintain and operate a religious corporation and to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel. These principles are set forth in the “Declaration of Faith,” compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson, founder, a copy of which is attached to these Bylaws and made a part hereof.

ARTICLE I Name and Seal

The name of this corporation shall be the INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL. The corporate seal shall consist of two concentric circles between which shall be the name of the corporation and in the center of which shall appear “Incorporated 1927, California.”

ARTICLE II Offices

The principal office of the corporation shall be located at 1910 West Sunset Boulevard, Suite #200, Los Angeles, California 90026. The corporation may also maintain offices at other places within or without the bounds of the United States.

ARTICLE III Definitions

- 3.1 **INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL:** A religious body incorporated as the formal organization of the Foursquare movement.
- 3.2 **FOURSQUARE MOVEMENT:** Persons who have voluntarily joined together under the authority of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as set forth in the “Declaration of Faith,” compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson, founder.
- 3.3 **FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH:** Any local body of believers in the United States, which is established and operated in accordance with these Bylaws and accepted by board action. A Foursquare Gospel church may be either a Charter Member Foursquare Gospel church or a Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church. Foursquare Gospel churches are not separate legal entities. They are subsidiary units of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Each Foursquare Gospel church is organized and operated to carry out the ecclesiastical and evangelistic endeavors of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- 3.4 **FOURSQUARE CONVENTION:** An official gathering of the members called together by the president or board of directors to fellowship, to rejoice in what the Lord has done, to receive fresh anointing for the task ahead, and to conduct pending business. By the refining and the perpetuation of these Bylaws, the convention body gives direction to the Foursquare movement.

- 3.5 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The official body of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (sometimes referred to hereafter as “the board”) to oversee the carrying out of the objects and purposes and direction stated in the Articles and these Bylaws. These directors are collectively referred to as the board. The board shall consist of not less than twelve and not more than twenty members.
- 3.6 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:** A body of leaders from the Foursquare movement with the responsibility of advising on items to be placed on the agenda for meetings of the members of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. This group acts in an advisory capacity to the president and the board of directors on all other matters brought before it by the board of directors.
- 3.7 **FOURSQUARE CABINET:** An advisory body to the board, herein referred to as the cabinet, on matters concerning the Foursquare movement.
- 3.8 **FOURSQUARE ASSOCIATION:** A network of Christian ministers and churches which are in fellowship to exalt Jesus Christ and to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as proclaimed by Aimee Semple McPherson (sometimes referred to hereafter as ‘the Association’). The Association is in no way designed or intended to function as an unincorporated association or to be a separate legal or jural entity. The Association shall have no bylaws or separate governing board and shall hold no assets. Members of the Association may not hold themselves out as agents for one another or of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel on the basis of membership in the Association. The Foursquare Association is not an agency of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- A. **Association ‘Charter Member Church’:** A church previously established and chartered by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel as a local Foursquare Gospel church or a church not previously established by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel which elects to become a local Foursquare Gospel Church having no legal existence, articles of incorporation, bylaws or other organizing documents apart from those of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and which has transferred title to all of its real property into the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel with no possibility of reversion unless specifically agreed to by the board.
- B. **Association ‘Covenant Member Church’:**
1. “Pioneer Church”: A local church begun and established by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel which has not acquired real property other than leased property and has not yet been granted Charter Member status pursuant to these Bylaws; and
 2. A previously independent church which in electing to become a Foursquare Gospel church does not transfer title to its real property into the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, but which otherwise elects to be governed by the articles and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel with no other legal structure or existence apart from International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The corporation holding title to the real property must be a corporation with federally recognized tax exempt status whose nonprofit purpose is unequivocally related to the propagation of the Christian faith and message.

- C. **Association ‘Community Member Church’:** A local church which is a separate legal entity governed by its own organizational documents and structure that elects to affiliate with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and other churches of the Foursquare Association on a relational basis of shared principles, endeavors, goals and purpose. Community Member churches are and shall remain completely autonomous and independent legal entities. International Church of the Foursquare Gospel shall have no control over the governance or management of the Community Member churches. Community Member churches select, hire, and license and/or ordain their own ministers and other personnel and employees. International Church of the Foursquare Gospel shall have no control or say in the day-to-day decisions of the Community Member churches. International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and its members, directors, officers and agents shall not be held liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of Community Member churches. The relationship between a Community Member church and the Association is at-will and may be discontinued by the local church or International Church of the Foursquare Gospel with or without cause.
- D. **Foursquare Association Church:** Refers to a church which is a member of the Association. The term “Foursquare Association church” is inclusive of churches which are subsidiary units of International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and governed by its articles and bylaws (Foursquare Gospel Charter and Covenant Member churches), and other churches which are associated with International Church of the Foursquare Gospel’s Association as separate legal entities not governed or controlled by and not subsidiary units of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (Community Member churches).

- 3.9 **CHURCH COUNCIL:** The church council of a Foursquare Gospel church, consists of the pastor and four to twelve persons elected or ratified from the church membership except where by written approval of the district supervisor the number of persons has been increased or decreased.¹ The church council shares the stewardship of the financial assets and property of a Foursquare Gospel church with the senior pastor.

ARTICLE IV Members

- 4.1 **MEMBERS.** The members of this corporation are
- A. The officers and directors of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
 - B. Licensed ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel holding active status under provisions of these Bylaws.
 - C. Members in good standing of Charter and Covenant Member churches established, organized, or otherwise accepted, and operating under these Bylaws.
- 4.2 **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** Membership in this corporation shall automatically terminate when a member ceases, for any reason, to satisfy the requirements of this article IV.

¹ This revision is made to harmonize the definition with article XVI, section 16.1.A

ARTICLE V Meetings of Members

5.1 CONVENTIONS

- A. **Regular.** At least once every two calendar years the president, with the approval of the board, shall cause to be called, preferably between March 1 and August 31, a meeting of this corporation's members. The meeting shall be known as a regular convention.
- B. **Interim.** In case of necessity, the board, by a two-thirds vote of all its members, may call a special meeting of this corporation's members that shall be designated as an interim convention.

- 5.2 **NOTICES OF CONVENTIONS.** A written notice of each regular or interim convention shall be sent to each Charter Member and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church located in the United States of America, which shall post the notice in order to inform the membership of the convention. Notice of a regular convention shall be given at least six months prior to its designated date of commencement. Notice of an interim convention shall be given at least thirty days prior to its designated date of commencement. Notice of an interim convention shall state the purpose thereof.

The board may extend a written invitation to attend convention to each member of the Foursquare Association and each Community Member church of the Association whose membership in the Foursquare Association is current and in good standing.

5.3 CONDUCT OF REGULAR CONVENTIONS

- A. **Chairperson.** The president of the corporation or the president's designee shall preside at all regular conventions. In the absence of the president and the president's designee, the following persons, in order of succession, shall preside: a vice president or a member of the corporation's board elected to serve as chairperson of the convention by a majority vote of all members of the board.
- B. **Reports.** At each regular convention, official business reports shall be received from the following: president, treasurer, general supervisor, director of missions, committees whose reports require corporate action, and individuals giving reports approved by the cabinet for presentation at the convention.
- C. **Other Business.** In addition to the required reports, the following matters shall be placed before the convention:
 - 1. Opportunity for Foursquare ministers and voting delegates to express opinions, questions and concerns to the board.
 - 2. Items placed on the agenda by the board and items not previously submitted to the executive council, provided the delayed voting requirements set forth in bylaw article V, section 5.3 D are satisfied. All matters not previously submitted to the executive council, if recommended by the convention, shall be referred to the board for committee review or other appropriate action.

3. The approval of members reappointed by the board to fill appointed seats on the board and the approval of other non-voting participants appointed to the board.
4. The vote for ratification of appointments of the president for a second term of office when required by the cabinet, pursuant to article VII, section 7.1.2.A.5 of these Bylaws.
5. If timely, the approval of a person to fill the office of the president. The candidates shall be submitted by the cabinet.
6. Proposed amendments to this corporation's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

D. **Delayed Voting.** Any proposed amendment to the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, any proposal not previously presented to the executive council, or any proposal that requires provision for or the expenditure of funds not included in the corporation's current annual budget shall not be voted upon until the day following the day upon which it is introduced on the floor during a business session of the regular convention. Only when the delay of one day would be deemed harmful to the corporation may the deferral be waived by a two-thirds vote of the authorized voters present at the time of the vote.

5.4 **CONDUCT OF INTERIM CONVENTIONS.** The president or the officer or other person selected to serve as the chairperson (selected in the manner provided for regular conventions) shall preside at interim conventions. The only matters to be considered at an interim convention shall be those designated in the notice of the interim convention.

5.5 **MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE AT CONVENTIONS.** The members of this corporation who shall have full voting power on all matters considered at regular and interim conventions are those members who are registered for the convention and who belong to at least one of the following categories:

- A. Officers and directors of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
- B. Licensed ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel holding active status under the provision of these Bylaws and whose credential fees are paid current at the time the convention convenes. A minister whose credential fees are not current at the time the convention convenes will not be privileged to vote.
- C. Delegates from Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches: one delegate for each fifty members or fraction thereof from each Charter and Covenant Foursquare Gospel church located in the United States of America.

5.6 **NONVOTING ATTENDEES.** At the discretion of the board, all nonvoting attendees who are registered at any regular or interim convention may be admitted to any corporate business session.

5.7 CONVENTION VOTING PROCEDURES

- A. **Registration.** To be entitled to vote, members shall register for each convention. Registered voting members shall display valid voting delegate credentials, and shall be entitled to one vote on each item presented. There shall not be voting by proxy at any convention.
- B. **Quorum.** A majority of registered voting members in attendance at a convention shall constitute a quorum at a convention. The voting members present at a convention at which a quorum has been established may continue to transact business until final adjournment of the convention at its originally scheduled termination date. If the withdrawal of voting members leaves less than a quorum, any action (other than amending the bylaws or articles of incorporation) may be approved by at least a majority of the voting members present at the time of the vote.
- C. **Voting.** Where voting is required by these Bylaws to approve the selection of persons to serve as directors, officers, and members of national cabinets and councils, such voting shall be by written ballot. Voting on other matters shall be conducted in the manner determined by the chairperson. The secretary of the corporation shall cause all votes to be counted and shall report the results to the convention body. A ballot which is illegible, does not indicate a selection, or by write-in indicates a person not nominated by the cabinet, shall not be counted as a “vote cast.” All ballots shall be retained for not less than thirty days. As long as quorum requirements have been met, resolutions receiving a majority vote shall be declared as passed. In order to be approved, candidates must receive a majority of the votes cast for the positions for which they have been selected.

5.8 VOTING BY MAIL

- A. **Special Action.** In the event an action taken by the board requires the approval of this corporation’s voting members, and if in the opinion of the board it would be impractical to wait for a regular convention or to call an interim convention, the board, by two-thirds majority vote, may submit the resolution by mail to the corporation’s voting members for approval. The resolution shall be mailed to each voting member not less than thirty days prior to the last date authorized for its return to the corporation. The resolution shall be accompanied by a form of ballot upon which there shall be a place to indicate a “yes” or “no” vote and a place for the signature and title of the voter. The notice to qualified voters shall state the date on or before which the ballots must be received by the corporation in order to be counted.
- B. **Voter Eligibility.** As long as they continue to meet the requirements applicable to voting members, all voting members shall remain such for the purpose of voting by mail, as herein provided, from the date of registration at a regular convention until thirty days prior to the date set for the next regular or interim convention.
- C. **Vote Counting.** All ballots returned within the allotted time for voting shall be counted by the secretary or by the secretary’s authorized representative(s). The results shall be reported by the secretary at the next meeting of the board and recorded in the board’s minutes. The results shall be published, and the ballots received by the corporation shall be kept until the adjournment of the next regular convention.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

- 6.1 **POWERS AND DUTIES.** Subject to the Articles, these Bylaws, and applicable law, the corporate activities of the corporation shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be employed by or under the direction of the board. The board is responsible for discipline as well as general corporate management. The board may delegate the management of various activities to any person or persons provided that the activities and affairs of the corporation shall be managed and corporate powers shall be exercised under the direction of the board. No director, officer, minister, member, church council, Foursquare Association church, employee of the foregoing, or employee of any other entity within this corporation is empowered to act as a legal agent of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel without the prior written authorization of the board, except for acts expressly authorized in these Bylaws. In addition to the other powers enumerated in these Bylaws, the board shall have the following powers:
- A. To call conventions.
 - B. To license and ordain ministers in accordance with the Articles and these Bylaws. However, the granting of ministerial credentials shall not confer any agency authority to act on behalf of this corporation.
 - C. To appoint the corporation's officers, both general and executive (excluding its president, who shall be selected in the manner provided in these Bylaws); missionaries; councils; committees; and chairpersons thereof. The board may seek input from any segment or area of the Foursquare movement concerning its plans or the selection of personnel to fill its offices.
 - D. To create offices, departments, and districts as needed to accomplish the corporation's objectives and purposes, and to direct their activities.
 - E. To employ persons as needed to accomplish the corporation's objects and purposes, taking into account the broad constituency of the Foursquare movement.
 - F. To fix salaries and other compensation of the corporation's officers and other employees who are to receive salaries or other compensation for their services.
 - G. To terminate from office or employment any officer (excluding the president, who may be terminated only upon the recommendation of the cabinet in the manner provided for in these Bylaws) or other corporate employee if, in the opinion of a majority of the board, such termination would be in the best interests of this corporation.
 - H. To override a presidential veto by a two-thirds majority vote of all board members.
 - I. To make financial arrangements to carry out the purposes of this corporation and to authorize the execution by the proper corporate officers of securities or evidences of indebtedness or other documents as required.
 - J. To buy, sell, exchange, encumber, and generally deal in real properties, improved or unimproved.

- K. To acquire and operate Bible colleges or auxiliary endeavors. The board may adopt bylaws governing such operations. The board may establish a separate board of trustees for each college.
- L. The board, through the executive department or other subsidiary corporations of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, shall be responsible for but not limited to overseeing the operations of the following:
 - 1. Foursquare insurance
 - 2. Foursquare loan fund
 - 3. Foursquare Foundation
 - 4. Foursquare income properties proximate to the central office
- M. To do and perform other acts and things required of it by these Bylaws and/or applicable law, with all powers necessary therefore.

6.2 **NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.** The number of directors shall be not less than twelve and not more than twenty. The board shall fix the exact authorized number of directors from time to time, within the limits specified within this section.

6.3 **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.** The board shall be composed of the following officers, selected directors, and appointed directors, each of whom shall at all times be a member in good standing of a local Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church.

- A. **Officers:** The following corporate officers shall be members of the board: the president and the vice presidents who oversee national church operations, global church operations, and corporate administrative operations of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- B. **Selected Directors.** The board shall designate from time to time geographic voting regions for the purpose of selecting directors. A minimum of nine directors shall be selected from such geographic voting regions. Three directors shall be selected from each geographic voting region to serve a five-year term and until their successors from each voting region are duly selected. Each district of a geographic voting region will send a selected representative to the board on a rotating basis. A district will be unrepresented on the board for no longer than a five-year term.

Nominees to serve as directors from the districts of a geographic voting region shall be selected from the districts within the designated geographic region. Each nominee shall be a currently licensed and ordained minister in good standing and shall be under appointment to a local Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church in a district within the designated geographic region that the minister will represent.

The selection of district representative nominees shall be conducted as follows: (1) ministers of the district who hold current ordination, international license, or district license shall recommend to the district supervisor the names of qualified ministers. (2) The district supervisor and the district council of any unrepresented districts on the board shall select three nominees. Represented districts whose seats are expiring shall select two or three nominees, as determined by the corporate secretary. Selections shall be based upon criteria provided by the board. The district supervisor shall transmit the

names of the nominees to the corporate secretary. Districts which are represented and whose seats on the board are not expiring shall not supply any nominees.

The ministers who will serve as the directors from the districts of a designated geographic region shall be selected from among the nominees previously selected from districts of the geographic region by an election conducted by the corporate secretary. The ministers in the geographic area who hold current ordination, international license, or district license shall vote by mail, according to instructions from the corporate secretary to select from among the nominees the ministers to serve as the representative directors. An independent accounting firm that has been selected by the corporation's secretary shall oversee the tallying of the ballots. Voting procedures shall be established and supervised by the secretary, who shall certify the results to the board.

A selected director's term shall commence on September 1, or as soon thereafter as the selection has been certified by the corporation's secretary, and shall continue through August 31 of the fifth year thereafter. No director may be elected to serve consecutive terms of office. No director shall concurrently serve as a selected or appointed member of the cabinet.

When a director becomes ineligible to serve on the board of directors because of a geographical move from the district that elected the director, the director shall be deemed to have resigned. The effective date of resignation may be delayed by the board, in its discretion, to allow completion of the resigning director's current term, so long as the resignation is effective within one year of the date of the director's relocation from the district that elected the director.

Should the seat of a selected director become vacant before the expiration of that director's term, the board shall appoint one of the final nominees previously selected by the ministers of the district to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

- C. **Appointed Directors.** Members in good standing of a local Foursquare church may be appointed as directors by the board (not to exceed the maximum number of directors) for a term of five years. Reappointment of appointed directors shall be subject to approval by a majority of votes cast at a regular convention occurring prior to the expiration of the appointed director's initial or subsequent term as a director. The cabinet shall ratify, by majority vote, directors appointed to the board. No person who fails to be ratified may continue to serve as an appointed director. Failure to be ratified shall not negate any prior vote cast by an appointed director. An appointed director's term shall commence on September 1 and shall continue through August 31 of the fifth year thereafter, provided the appointment was ratified as required. Appointments shall not cause the total number of employees of the corporate headquarters on the board to exceed five.
- D. **Staggered Term Limits.** The board shall coordinate the ending of the terms of its various members, excluding the president, such that no more than one third of the board shall have terms ending in any given calendar year.
- E. **Foursquare Foundation Participants.** The board shall assign a permanent seat at its meetings and conference calls to a representative of the Foursquare Foundation as a non-voting participant. In the absence of other designation by the board, the Foursquare Foundation representative shall be the chairperson of the Foursquare Foundation board.

F. **Other Non-voting Participants.** The board may invite persons or appoint persons of specific expertise or insight to serve as non-voting participants in board deliberations. The term of service shall not exceed one year, but the term(s) may be renewed if the board so chooses to a maximum of five consecutive terms.

6.4 **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.** All directors shall enjoy the same rights and privileges, including the power to vote on all matters presented to the board; however, a director may not vote on any matter in which there may be a conflict of interest. All non-voting participants may participate fully in board deliberations, except for the right to propose a motion, second a motion or vote.

6.5 **VACANCIES.** Any director, excepting the last remaining director, may resign, effective upon giving written notice to the president, the secretary, or the board unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. If the resignation is to be effective at a future time, a successor may be selected or appointed in the manner provided in these Bylaws to take office when the resignation becomes effective. Vacancies among the appointed members of the board may be filled by approval of the remaining members of the board. Each director so chosen shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced director and until a successor has been chosen. A vacancy or vacancies in the board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation, or removal of any director, or if the authorized number of directors be increased. No reduction of the authorized number of directors shall have the effect of removing any director prior to the expiration of the director's term of office.

6.6 **REMOVAL.** If the board determines that a director, other than the president, is failing to function in the best interests of this corporation, the board shall have the power to remove the director by a two-thirds vote of the board.

6.7 **PLACE OF MEETING.** Regular or special meetings of the board shall be held at any place within or without the bounds of the State of California, which may be designated from time to time by the board. In the absence of such designation, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the corporation.

6.8 **REGULAR MEETINGS.** The board shall determine the schedule of regular meetings and shall be responsible to inform each director of the time and place of each meeting.

6.9 **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the board for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the chairperson or by a majority of the board. Special meetings of the board shall be held upon four days' notice by first-class mail or 48 hours' notice delivered personally or by telephone or electronic means.

6.10 **QUORUM.** A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum of the board for the transaction of business. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the board, unless a greater number be required by law or by the Articles or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Executive Officers

All executive officers shall be chosen from among ordained Foursquare ministers who are in full compliance with the Articles and these Bylaws and who have demonstrated spiritual leadership and ability to perform the duties of the offices to which they are appointed. They shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the president and the board, except for the president who shall be selected in accordance with these Bylaws. The executive officers of this corporation shall be the president, vice presidents, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer. The board may appoint additional executive officers and may combine executive offices with general offices.

7.1 THE PRESIDENT

7.1.1 Powers and Duties

- A. The president is the spiritual leader and corporate executive officer of the Foursquare movement and has appointive powers, subject to these Bylaws and the approval of the board. The president shall be responsible for general supervision and direction of the corporation. The president has the general powers and duties usually vested in the office of the president of a corporation, including the power to veto any act of the board, subject to the provisions of article VI, section 6.1.H of these Bylaws. The president shall be responsible for recommending to the board the appointment of personnel to fill executive offices as needed. The president shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as may be prescribed by the board.
- B. The president or the president's designee shall preside at all conventions.
- C. As the leader of the Foursquare movement, the president shall strive for the salvation of souls; encourage the worship of God; uplift our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; honor the ministry of the Holy Spirit; work to strengthen the body of believers; and promote every effort to fulfill the command of Jesus to preach the Word to all people.
- D. The president shall supervise the worldwide work of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- E. The president's name shall be affixed to all corporate ministerial credentials, certificates, church charters, and pastoral appointments.
- F. Upon resolution of the board, the president shall sign all documents upon which the signature of the president is required.
- G. The president shall be responsible for the preparation of the corporation's annual budget, which shall be submitted to the board for consideration and approval at a date set by the board. No unbudgeted funds shall be expended without the prior approval of the board.
- H. The president shall oversee the corporation's compliance with laws, rules, and regulations applicable to this corporation, including the signing and filing of reports for federal, state, and local governments.
- I. The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

7.1.2 Procedures for Selecting the President.

- A. Upon the president's death or other inability to fulfill the term of office, the board shall select one of its own voting members to act as interim² president until the next ensuing convention or interim convention has been convened and a new president has been elected and installed.
1. When it becomes necessary to elect a new president, the cabinet shall select two or three nominees for the office of president from among the ordained ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel according to procedures set forth in these Bylaws.

Each nominee shall have (a) demonstrated faithfulness to Foursquare mission, doctrine, and polity as set forth in the Articles, these Bylaws, and the "Declaration of Faith"; (b) a proven ability to understand, appreciate, and lead within the Foursquare movement; (c) a reputation as a person of maturity, integrity, and good moral character; (d) a proven pastoral heart, Foursquare missions vision, evangelistic fervor, and servant leadership; and (e) a record of long-term and proven ministry, and shall have exemplified those core values that have characterized the spirit of the Foursquare family. names of the nominees so nominated shall be presented to the authorized voters at the convention for written balloting. Ballots shall be counted by an independent accounting firm selected by the corporate secretary and vote tabulation results reported to the corporate secretary. If a second ballot is required to select from among three nominees, the nominee receiving the least number of votes on the initial ballot shall not appear on the second ballot. A ballot which is illegible, does not indicate a selection, or by write-in indicates a person not nominated by the cabinet, shall not be counted as a "vote cast." The corporate secretary shall inform the candidates of the result of the vote privately, before it is announced publicly. The public announcement shall not include the number of votes received. Election results shall be announced to the convention body in the first evening service of the convention after the results are known.

2. On the first full day of convention a business session shall be convened for the express purpose of electing a president from among the candidates nominated by the cabinet. The cabinet's nominees for the office of president shall be presented to the convention body. The board shall have discretion to vary from time to time the format for presenting the nominees to the convention provided that in each election the nominees have an opportunity to address the convention and the voters of the convention have opportunity to pose questions to the nominees regarding any topic relevant to doctrine, practice, the Foursquare movement or the office of president. However, nominees shall not be questioned about personal matters since such matters were already reviewed in the cabinet's nominating deliberations.
3. When the presentation and interview of the nominees has been completed, the names of the nominees so nominated shall be presented to the authorized voters at

² This revision is made to harmonize this section with article VII, section 7.1.2.C

the convention for written balloting. Ballots shall be counted by an independent accounting firm selected by the corporate secretary and vote tabulation results reported to the corporate secretary. If a second ballot is required to select from among three nominees, the nominee receiving the least number of votes on the initial ballot shall not appear on the second ballot. A ballot which is illegible, does not indicate a selection, or by write-in indicates a person not nominated by the cabinet, shall not be counted as a "vote cast." The corporate secretary shall inform the candidates of the result of the vote privately, before it is announced publicly. The public announcement shall not include the number of votes received. Election results shall be announced to the convention body in the first evening service of the convention after the results are known.

4. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be deemed president-elect. An oath of office shall be administered to the president-elect on the last evening of convention. The president-elect shall take office as president on the first day of the fourth month following the close of the convention. The term of president shall be for the ensuing five years and until a successor shall be duly elected and qualified.
 5. In the event that the president, in the year before the final year of the president's term of office, gives advance written notice to the cabinet before it meets of his or her willingness to be considered for a second term of office, the cabinet may choose to recommend to the convention that it ratify the president for a second term of office at the following convention by written ratification ballot. The cabinet may or may not choose to recommend to the convention that it ratify the president for a second term of office at the following convention by written ratification ballot. A recommendation by the cabinet to the convention that the president be ratified for a second term requires a two-thirds approval vote of the cabinet. The president shall be ratified for a second term of office by vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the votes cast at convention. If the president is ratified for a second term in the final year of the president's first term, no presidential selection process will be conducted.
 6. In the event that the president becomes unable or unavailable to fulfill the term of office, the voters at the next regular convention shall elect, from the candidates nominated by the cabinet for this purpose in the manner provided in this bylaw, a president-elect to take office on the earlier of the dates set forth in the notice of unavailability, the date of expiration of the current president's term, or upon the occurrence of the current president's permanent inability or death. If the necessary nominee selection process cannot be reasonably completed by the next regular convention, the board may delay the convention vote to an interim convention or to the following regular convention thereafter, or the board may appoint one of its own members, with ratification at the next regular convention, to serve as interim president until the following regular convention and until a president-elect takes office.
- B. No person may serve more than two consecutive terms of office as president. Upon leaving office, the outgoing president may be appointed by the board to another place of service in the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

The board shall determine compensation protocols to guide, inform, and assist the transition of a president leaving office.

- C. In case of the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of the president, and as long as a president-elect has not taken office, the board shall select one of its voting members to serve as interim president; this person shall serve until the next president is selected in the manner herein set forth and approved. The board shall make its selection of interim president using a process substantially similar to the process stated in article XI, section 11.1.3 (“Selection of Presidential Candidates”):³ A special meeting of the board will be called to begin the selection process. Prior to the meeting the directors will review the bylaws and prepare spiritually. At the meeting nominations for the person to serve as interim president will be received. Thereafter a review committee will be formed to review the qualifications of the nominees and interview them. Nominees are excluded from serving on the review committee. At a subsequent board meeting the review committee will present its recommendations and the board will vote to select an interim president. Nominees shall recuse themselves from deliberations and from voting. The person receiving the most votes shall be designated as the interim president. The board will endeavor to complete this process as expeditiously as possible.

The person chosen to serve as interim president may not be considered as a candidate for selection of the next president unless approved as a candidate by three-fourth’s approval of the Cabinet in its selection process.⁴

- D. If, during a president’s term of office, the board decides that a president is failing to function in the best interests of this corporation, the board shall have the power to call a meeting of the cabinet to seek a satisfactory solution. The cabinet, by majority vote, shall recommend action to the board, which may include removing the president from office. If the board, on the recommendation of the cabinet, votes to remove the person holding the office of president from that office, the procedures set forth herein shall be followed in order to select a new president.

7.2 OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS. The offices of vice presidents, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer shall be filled by appointment of the board. These officers shall serve at the pleasure of the board and until their respective successors are duly appointed and installed. The installation of a new officer shall terminate the appointment of the previous officeholder, who shall deliver all books, papers, electronic data, and documents to the successor so installed.

7.2.1 Vice Presidents. In the temporary absence or disability of the president, the board shall designate a vice president to perform all the duties of the president as president pro tempore and

³ The Convention asked that the board have a defined process for selecting an interim president. In bylaw committee discussions it was apparent that the same or a substantially similar process to that used by the Cabinet to select presidential candidates could serve the board as well in selecting an interim president. Rather than restate and refine the Cabinet process already set forth at article XI section 11.1.3 in detail here, it was deemed sufficient to simply describe the major elements of the process and make reference to the Cabinet process.

⁴ Prohibiting the interim president from consideration as the next president will free the interim to focus on the task at hand without concern for how actions taken as interim president may enhance or diminish the prospects of being ultimately elected as the next president. However, if three-fourths of the Cabinet strongly desire the person selected as interim president to be placed on the ballot for election as the next president, the Cabinet has the ability to do so.

when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. The vice president designated as president pro tempore shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed by the board. In other respects, a vice president shall have such duties as may be assigned to him or her by the president and/or the board.

7.2.2 Secretary. The secretary shall

- A. Perform the usual and ordinary duties of secretary of a religious corporation.
- B. Attest to the signatures of corporate officers when necessary.
- C. Maintain accurate minutes of all conventions and board meetings.
- D. Register the qualified voters, as defined in these Bylaws, at each convention.
- E. Tally and report the results of the written votes at each convention.
- F. Maintain custody and care of the corporate seal, minutes, records, books, documents, and communications; give oversight to the procedures for storage, preservation, and retrieval of all corporate records, minutes, books, documents and communications, except the books of account which are required to be kept in the treasurer's custody.
- G. Receive and preserve all reports rendered to the corporation by its officers and committee chairpersons for the period of time established by the board.
- H. Perform other duties not inconsistent with the office which the president or board may require.
- I. Maintain records of all ordained or licensed personnel.

7.2.3 Assistant Secretary. The assistant secretary shall perform the duties of secretary in the absence or disability of the secretary and shall assist the secretary as requested.

7.2.4 Treasurer. The treasurer shall

- A. Keep and maintain or cause to be kept and maintained adequate and correct accounts of the financial transactions of the corporation.
- B. Deposit all moneys and other valuables of the corporation in the name and to the credit of the corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the board.
- C. Disburse the funds of the corporation as directed by the board.
- D. Render each year a report of the corporation's financial operations and condition as of December 31 of the prior year.
- E. Prepare monthly reports of the corporate financial operations for the president and board.
- F. Report to the board, as requested, transactions performed as treasurer.
- G. Be bonded with a surety company, if deemed advantageous by the board.

ARTICLE VIII

General Officers

All general officers shall be chosen from among ordained Foursquare ministers who are in full compliance with the Articles and these Bylaws and who have demonstrated spiritual leadership and ability to perform the duties of the offices to which they are appointed. They shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the president and the board.

8.1 GENERAL SUPERVISOR

8.1.1 Selection. The person selected as the general supervisor shall have a record of long-term commitment and service to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

8.1.2 Powers and Duties. The general supervisor shall

- A. Supervise the activities of the national church of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in all 50 states of the United States.
- B. Recommend personnel to the board for appointment to the office of district supervisor.
- C. Be in direct charge of the activities of all district supervisors and shall be devoted to the health and growth of Charter Member and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches throughout the districts in furtherance of the objectives and purposes of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. In the event any office of district supervisor becomes vacant, the general supervisor shall assume the responsibilities of such office until the board appoints a replacement.
- D. Keep the board informed of conditions throughout the churches.
- E. Be responsible for the national church office and its ministries.
- F. Be responsible for resolving problems concerning churches or ministers that might adversely affect this corporation. The general supervisor shall inform the president and the board of all problems that could have an adverse effect on the corporation.
- G. As directed by the president, oversee the compliance of the Foursquare Gospel Churches in the United States with laws, rules, and regulations applicable to this corporation.
- H. Provide the district supervisors with operational guidelines for the district offices and the divisional superintendents.

8.2 DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

8.2.1 Selection. District supervisors shall be chosen for their interest in the expansion of the Foursquare movement. They shall be accountable to the president and general supervisor, serving five-year terms over their districts as designated by the board. The general supervisor shall review annually the performances of the district supervisors; biennially the general supervisor's review shall include evaluations by the senior pastors of the supervisors' respective districts.

Reappointment of a district supervisor by the board shall be subject to the recommendation of the general supervisor. Removal of a district supervisor shall be pursuant to bylaw article VIII, section 8.2.3.

8.2.2 Powers and Duties. The district supervisors shall

- A. Devote themselves to the strengthening and multiplication of Charter Member and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches within their respective districts in accordance with the Articles and these Bylaws. Their duties shall include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. Providing and promoting continuing leadership development opportunities for Foursquare ministers⁵
 - 2. Fostering relationships and accountability among Foursquare ministers
 - 3. Encouraging the effectiveness and spiritual health of local churches and ministers
 - 4. Promoting church starts and church growth
 - 5. Strategically investing budgeted funds to achieve church starts and growth
 - 6. Recommending minister personnel to the board for pastoral appointments
 - 7. Assisting the board in resolving church or minister related crises and disputes
 - 8. Assisting the board in administrative functions
 - 9. Assuring sound doctrine and practice in Foursquare Gospel churches
 - 10. Encourage local church support of Foursquare Missions International
 - 11. Make local churches aware of district camping programs⁶
- B. Maintain district offices at locations approved by the board.
- C. Visit the Charter Member and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches within their respective districts.
- D. Divide their districts into divisions and from each division select a minister residing therein to be the divisional superintendent; supply the divisional superintendents with operational guidelines as provided by the general supervisor.
- E. Appoint such other representatives as needed to carry out specific district assignments.

⁵ This revision further defines the basic idea of “providing leadership development opportunities”.

⁶ New supervisor duties #10 and #11 are self-explanatory

- F. Receive from ministers or churches at a district level the fees and assessments that have been previously authorized by the board.
- G. Refer to the general supervisor any matter that may create an actual or potential conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. The general supervisor shall act as the district supervisor of any church whose pastor is serving as a district supervisor.

8.2.3 **Removal.** In the event that a district supervisor is not functioning in the best interests of the corporation or the district, the general supervisor, with the concurrence of the president and with majority approval of the board, shall have power to remove the supervisor and appoint a replacement.

8.2.4 **District Council.** Each district supervisor shall appoint an advisory committee of no less than five persons to serve as a district council. Appointees shall include any board member residing in the district, and the district's selected four year term⁷ cabinet representative. Other appointees may be lay persons, retired ministers, licensed ministers of Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches of the district and superintendents of the district who are not employed by a district office. District council members may be removed by the district supervisor with concurrence of the general supervisor. The district supervisor shall cause minutes of the meetings of the district council to be maintained and copied to the general supervisor. The district council shall meet no less than quarterly to

- A. Pray for and minister to the district supervisor.
- B. Review district finances.
- C. Review district programs and plans.
- D. Assist the district supervisor to select nominees to offer to the ministers of the district for vote as members of the board and cabinet from the district pursuant to article VI, section 6.3.B. and article XI, section 11.1.1.B.
- E. Assist the district supervisor to fill vacancies, as needed, to the board and cabinet from the district pursuant to article VI, section 6.3.B. and article XI, section 11.1.1.B.
- F. Assist the board, the general supervisor, and the district supervisor in resolving church- or minister-related crises and disputes, including matters of ethics, pastoral and church council removals, and church closures.

8.3 DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS

8.3.1 **Selection.** Divisional superintendents shall be appointed for one year from among the ministers residing-ministering in that division district.⁸ Appointments by the district supervisor of

⁷ Districts may also have cabinet representatives who have been appointed. Only the person selected to serve the four year term is also serving on the District Council.

⁸ This revision makes possible the selection of a superintendent appointed to a church of the division but residing in another nearby division in the same district.

divisional superintendents shall be subject to approval by the general supervisor and confirmation by the board.

8.3.2 Powers and Duties. The divisional superintendents

- A. Shall be members of the executive council.
- B. Shall participate in district functions and shall be responsible to the district supervisor to carry out district programs at the divisional level and such other assignments as specified by the district supervisor.
- C. May be appointed to the district council of their district unless they are district employees.

8.3.3 Removal. In the event it appears that a divisional superintendent is not functioning in the best interest of the district or the division, the district supervisor, with the concurrence of the general supervisor, shall have the power to remove the superintendent and to appoint a replacement.

8.4 DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

8.4.1 Selection. The director of missions shall be chosen for his or her missionary vision from among the missionaries or missions-minded ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

8.4.2 Powers and Duties. The director of missions shall

- A. Have general supervision of all missionary activities and personnel. The director of missions shall carry out the board's instructions in all mission activities.
- B. Be devoted to the building up of the missionary fields in accordance with the Articles and these Bylaws. The director of missions shall present the needs of the missionary fields and make recommendations to the board. The director of missions shall assist in the preparation of the missionary budget and in its presentation to the board for approval or revision, assist in raising the budgeted funds, and oversee the disbursement of authorized funds. The director of missions shall be responsible for the use of funds approved by the board. The director of missions shall communicate the activities, objectives and needs of the missionary fields to local Foursquare churches in the United States.⁹

**ARTICLE IX
Assets and Finances**

9.1 ASSETS.

- A. **Corporate property:** All property shall be held in the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, except as otherwise expressly authorized by the board, and at

⁹ While communication of missions needs and endeavors to the US Foursquare church has long been an activity of the Director of Missions and FMI, it was not explicitly stated as a responsibility of the director.

all times shall be used to carry out the purposes for which this corporation has been established.

- B. **Property of Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches:** Title to all property of all Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches, including churches established through the efforts of Foursquare ministers and members and friends of their congregations, shall at all times stand in the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, except as otherwise expressly authorized by the board or as described for Covenant Member church real property in article IX section 9.1.C, and shall be used to carry out the purposes of the Foursquare movement. While individual members, including an entire congregation of a Foursquare Gospel church, have the right at any time to resign as members, the Foursquare Gospel church of which they were formerly members, including all property both real and personal, shall remain at all times vested in the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, except as otherwise expressly authorized by the board, and shall remain irrevocably dedicated to the Foursquare movement.

Consistent with the provisions of its articles of incorporation and these Bylaws, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, operating through its board, has the authority to determine the use or disposition of all property standing in the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and formerly used by an inactive or seceding congregation.

- C. **Other Nonprofit Corporations.** The provisions of article IX section 9.1.B notwithstanding, upon electing to become a Covenant Member of the Association a church may determine to hold title to real property in the name of another corporation (the 'local corporation') provided to the satisfaction of the board

1. The articles of incorporation, bylaws and/or other organizing documents of the local corporation evidence a nonprofit purpose unequivocally related to the propagation of the Christian faith and message
2. The articles, bylaws and other organizing documents of the local corporation do not govern the operations, personnel or ministry of the church
3. The local corporation has been granted federal tax exempt status.

Real property leased by a Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall be leased in the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, with the approval of the board of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The board may also determine that the lease should be made in some other name.

- D. **Property of a local Community Member Foursquare Association church:** The manner in which title to property belonging to Community Member Foursquare Association church is held shall be the purview of the governing body of that church.

9.2 FINANCES

- 9.2.1 **General Funds.** The corporation's funds shall be kept in the depositories designated by the board. Disbursements of funds shall be made by check or draft, which shall be signed by any two

officers or other persons authorized or designated by the board to sign and whose names shall be registered or recorded with the bank(s) in which the funds are kept, according to the rules and regulations of the bank(s).

9.2.2 **Special Funds.** The board shall have power to set up special funds as it may deem desirable for the achievement of the corporation's objectives and purposes. There shall be the following permanent special funds:

- A. **International Foursquare Missions Fund.** This fund shall consist of missionary offerings received from Foursquare Gospel churches and other donors and shall be used for the worldwide propagation of the Foursquare Gospel, ~~including general administration expenses.~~¹⁰
- B. **Foursquare Gospel Church Extension Tithe Fund.** This fund is the tithe received from Foursquare Gospel churches. Proceeds of this fund shall be used to open new Foursquare Gospel churches and to strengthen existing churches. It shall also be used to cover administrative expenses of ~~international~~ the central office,¹¹ and district offices, including the cost of creating new districts, officers' and secretarial salaries, a retirement fund, travel, other district expenses, and funding required for the perpetuation of the McPherson Memorial Extension Fund.
- C. **McPherson Memorial Extension Fund.** This fund shall be a portion, not to exceed ten percent (10 percent), of the Foursquare extension tithe as determined by the board. Upon a district supervisor's recommendation, and the board's approval, proceeds of this fund shall be disbursed as gifts to individual churches to assist in building programs.
- D. **Ministerial Benevolent Fund.** This fund shall consist of a portion of the fees received for issuance of credentials, as determined by the board. Proceeds of this fund shall be disbursed at the discretion of and on such terms as may be established by the board as gifts to assist Foursquare ministers in case of sickness, accident or death. At the discretion of the board, a minister's spouse may be allowed to participate by contributing an annual amount fixed by the board.
- E. **World Missions Projects.** This fund shall consist of offerings received for special, approved world missions projects. The offerings shall be credited to the missionary giving of the churches.
- F. **Earmarked Missions Funds.** Earmarked funds other than projects for the general program shall be accounted for separately from other funds and shall be used for the purpose for which they were given. A reasonable charge may be deducted to cover handling expenses and costs involved. The board reserves the right to accept or refuse any gift to be designated as "earmarked funds."

ARTICLE X

¹⁰ FMI has pledged that all funds received from local churches missionary offerings and individual donors will go "100% to the field." The board is paying the general administration expenses of FMI from other sources.

¹¹ The main office of The Foursquare Church in the U.S. is referred to as the "central office".

Special Ministries

The board shall have the power to establish special ministries to augment the work of Foursquare churches based on the board's determination of special needs and the availability of financial resources. The ministers for these ministries shall be selected by the board and shall serve at its pleasure. The board shall periodically review these ministers and ministries to evaluate their accomplishments and the need to continue such ministries. ~~Special ministries shall serve children, youth, women, and other people groups and concerns, as identified by the board.~~¹²

ARTICLE XI Foursquare Cabinet and Executive Council

11.1 FOURSQUARE CABINET

11.1.1 **Members.** Members of the cabinet shall be

- A. **Members by Office.** Members of the board, executive officers, the president of Life Pacific College, district supervisors and the director of Foursquare chaplains.
- B. **Members by Selection.** One cabinet member shall be selected from each district to serve a four-year term and until his or her successor is duly selected.

A selected cabinet member from a district shall be selected from among the currently Foursquare licensed and ordained ministers in good standing and under appointment to a Charter or Covenant Foursquare Gospel church in the district that the minister will represent.

The selection of the district cabinet member shall be as follows: (1) Ministers of the district holding a current district or international Foursquare license shall recommend the names of various qualified ministers to the district supervisor for consideration. (2) The district supervisor and the district council, shall select three nominees (based upon criteria provided by the board). The district supervisor shall transmit the names of the nominees to the corporate secretary. (3) The district cabinet member shall then be selected by an election conducted by the corporate secretary. Voting shall be by secret ballot of the ministers of the district holding current ordination, international license or district license from among the three nominees voting by mail. An independent accounting firm selected by the corporation's secretary shall oversee the tallying of ballots. Voting procedures shall be established and supervised by the secretary, who shall certify the results to the board. No cabinet members selected in this manner shall serve consecutive terms of office.

A selected district cabinet member's term of office begins at the first regularly scheduled annual meeting of the cabinet after the minister has been selected to serve, and shall continue until the next regularly scheduled annual meeting of the cabinet after a

¹² The first sentence of this paragraph states the board's authority to establish special ministries. Listing the ministries by name or by constituency is not necessary. Ministries may be established or terminated from time to time, or may be administered at a district, division or local church level. Each change in special ministry status should not necessitate a bylaw change.

successor is selected four years thereafter. The selection process should be initiated and concluded between September 1 and November 30 in the year the current term of office expires.

When a selected cabinet member becomes ineligible to serve on the cabinet because of a geographical move from the district that elected the cabinet member, the cabinet member shall be deemed to have resigned. The effective date of resignation may be delayed by the board, in its discretion, to allow completion of the resigning cabinet member's current term, so long as the resignation is effective within one year of the date of the cabinet member's relocation from the district that elected the cabinet member.

Should the seat of a selected cabinet member become vacant before the expiration of the cabinet member's term, the board shall appoint one of the two final nominees previously selected by the ministers of the district to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

- C. **Members by Appointment.** Other persons appointed to the cabinet for a one-year term by the board or the president with the approval of the board. Appointed cabinet members may be reappointed for successive years. An appointed cabinet member's term of office begins at the first regularly scheduled annual meeting of the cabinet after the minister has been appointed to serve, and shall continue until the next regularly scheduled annual meeting of the cabinet.
- D. **Removal.** If the board determines that a member of the cabinet is failing to function in the best interests of this corporation, the board shall have the power to remove the cabinet member by a two-thirds vote of the board.

11.1.2 **Powers and Duties.** The cabinet has the power and duty to recommend to the board ways to improve and to carry out the ministry of the Foursquare movement as will best honor the kingdom of God throughout the United States and around the world through its missionary efforts. The cabinet shall advise the board on such subjects as

- A. Foursquare mission, vision and strategy within the United States and around the world, especially in matters concerning leadership development, evangelism and church planting;
- B. Financial accountability and alignment to Foursquare's mission;
- C. The effectiveness of Foursquare leadership structures and governance; and
- D. Foursquare doctrine, polity and values.

11.1.3 **Selection of Presidential Candidates.** When the office of president has or will become vacant due to resignation, retirement, death, removal, expiration of the president's term of office, or for any other reason, the cabinet shall select candidates for the office of president as set forth in these Bylaws.

A. **Minister Participation.**

- 1. Each licensed ministers shall be given opportunity to submit the names of two

nominees to an accounting firm designated by the corporate secretary for confidential tally.

2. The accounting firm shall provide the corporate secretary and the board with the names of the twenty-five individuals receiving the most nominations from the ministers in alphabetical order. The number of nominations each received will be included in the report.
3. The list of the twenty-five individuals receiving the most nominations shall be provided to the Cabinet at the special session of Cabinet in January. The list shall not be made available to the Cabinet any sooner so as to protect these individuals from undue pressure.
4. The Cabinet retains the right to nominate whomever they choose.

B. Preparation of Cabinet Members. The corporate secretary shall provide each Cabinet member with a job description of the President's duties and a copy of the presidential selection process, at least two months prior to the Cabinet meeting. In order to prepare themselves to participate in the selection of candidates for Foursquare President, each member of Cabinet:

1. Shall review the powers and duties for the office of president and the procedures for selecting the president set forth in these Bylaws.
2. Shall be encouraged to pray and fast.

C. Special Session of Cabinet Convened.

1. A special session of the Cabinet shall be convened in January for the purpose of selecting nominees for president. The chairperson of the board or other person designated by the board shall moderate the session.
2. A quorum of the Cabinet shall be established and the number announced.
3. The moderator shall distribute a copy of the presidential selection process.

D. Formation of the Nominee Review Committee.

1. Before the nomination process begins an ad hoc "nominee review committee" shall be formed. There shall be one person from each district on the committee. The corporate secretary shall chair the committee.
 - a. Cabinet members will gather together briefly with those from their district to elect from among themselves a representative to this committee.
 - b. The Supervisor of each district, or a designee, should chair the meeting.
 - c. The name of the representative who is chosen will be reported to the moderator of the Cabinet.

2. The nominee review committee shall:
 - a. Tally the votes cast for nominees, and
 - b. Interview the nominees.
 3. Each committee member must signify in writing their agreement to hold all personal information learned about the nominees as strictly confidential information, not to be disclosed to any person, including a spouse, without the express consent of the nominees. Anyone unable or unwilling to make such written pledge shall be excused and an alternate selected.
- E. **Candidate Nomination.** The cabinet shall nominate two or three candidates for the office of president for placement on the ballot at convention. The process for nominating candidates shall proceed as follows:
1. At the special session, the list of the twenty-five persons receiving the most minister nominations shall be presented.
 2. Each cabinet member shall nominate two names using a written ballot. These names need not be drawn from the list of twenty-five receiving the most minister nominations.
 3. The names of persons receiving cabinet member nomination shall be tallied by the nominee review committee and the twenty-five persons receiving the most cabinet member nominations shall be posted, ranked in order from highest number of nomination votes received to the lowest.
- F. **Nominee Review.** Once the list of twenty-five names has been posted, the special session of cabinet may be recessed by the moderator and a regular cabinet meeting convened so the cabinet may conduct any other business it may have in a regular cabinet meeting. Meanwhile the nominee review committee shall begin interviewing the twenty-five nominees. As much as possible, the interviews will be conducted in-person while the cabinet is in session. Otherwise, teleconference interviews may be conducted. The entire nominee review committee should strive to be present for each interview.
1. The nominee review committee's role is solely to inquire of each candidate concerning these personal matters to determine if there is cause to disqualify. If opinions differ, a committee vote shall be taken. The corporate secretary shall also vote in case of a tie.
 2. Committee members shall not eliminate any candidate based on personal preference, but shall remain neutral and equitable toward all.
 3. The qualifying process shall begin with the nominee receiving the highest number of nomination votes, and shall proceed then to the next highest nominee and so forth until all nominees have been reviewed.
 4. The nominee review committee shall ask each nominee the following questions:

- a. “Are you willing to serve?”
- b. “Do you or your spouse have any serious health issues that might impede your service as president?”
- c. “Do you have any serious marital problems?”
- d. “Do you have any serious legal or financial problems or debt that has accumulated to a point that would impede your service?”
- e. “Is there anything in your past or present that would be scandalous if brought to public awareness?” (An answer of “yes” shall suffice unless the nominee wishes to elaborate.)

5. When the nominee review committee has completed its work, the cabinet moderator shall be notified and the moderator shall reconvene the special cabinet meeting. The names of those nominees who have been qualified by the nominee review committee will then be reported to the cabinet. The cabinet shall then vote their preference and a final list of nominees created ranked from the highest number of votes to the lowest.

- a. Each nominee shall be have time to pray and discuss with their spouse and other trusted friends their willingness to serve as president.
- b. Not later than two weeks after adjournment of the special cabinet meeting each nominee shall confirm his or her availability to serve as president, if elected. Absent extreme extenuating circumstances, a nominee failing to respond shall be deemed unavailable to serve as president.
- c. At the next regular cabinet meeting the four nominees who received greatest number of nomination votes and who have indicated their willingness to serve as president shall be interviewed by the cabinet.

G. **Cabinet Nomination Meeting.** On the first day of the regular Cabinet meeting in March, selection of two or three candidates for placement on the convention ballot for the office of president shall be a priority item of business on the meeting agenda. The procedure for this agenda item of business shall be the same as that followed at the previous special cabinet meeting.

1. The chairperson of the board or other person designated by the board shall moderate the meeting.
2. A quorum shall be established and the number reported.
3. The moderator shall distribute a written description of the presidential selection process.
4. The Cabinet members will be given the names of the four nominees to be interviewed. These names will not be made public sooner so as to protect the families and congregations of the nominees from unnecessary disruption.

5. Before commencement of nominee interviews, the Cabinet shall determine by vote whether to place two or three candidates on the convention ballot. The moderator shall allow adequate time for the Cabinet to deliberate on this matter.

H. **Nominee Interviews.** Nominee interviews before cabinet shall be conducted as follows:

1. Each of the four nominees and their spouse shall be interviewed in alphabetical order based on the first letter of their last name.
2. As a nominee is being interviewed, other nominees and their spouses shall not be present.
3. Each nominee shall initially respond to five questions. The nominee shall not be interrupted for questions or comments. The questions are:
 - a. “Do you fully subscribe to the Foursquare Declaration of Faith (as compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson)?”
 - b. “Briefly describe your history as a minister.” (The nominee may hand out or electronically display a resume, if desired.)
 - c. “Have you been faithful in belief and practice to the mission, financial support and polity of the Foursquare Church as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel?”
 - d. “Describe the role of the Foursquare president, as you understand it.”
 - e. “Describe four action steps you believe the Foursquare Church needs to take in the near future.”
4. Each nominee will begin by answering the five standard questions above without being interrupted for questioning.
5. When a nominee’s response is complete, the moderator shall invite the cabinet to ask any questions they wish of the nominee. A nominee, however, may decline to answer any particular question.
6. When the moderator or a member of cabinet feels that sufficient information about a nominee has been brought forth, he or she may move that the interview of that individual be closed. The motion must receive a second and a majority vote to be adopted.
7. This process shall continue until all committee-approved nominees remaining from the original list of four have been interviewed.

I. **Final Voting for Placement on the Convention Ballot.** The names of the two or three nominees who receive the most votes will be placed on the voter ballot at convention for

the office of president. To be placed on the ballot a nominee must be approved by two thirds of the cabinet. Cabinet voting shall be conducted as follows:

1. Each cabinet member shall vote by written ballot for one candidate. If a nominee is a member of cabinet, the nominee shall not vote on his or her own nomination.
2. Voting shall continue until the requisite number of nominees, each with a two-thirds approval, emerge. Each time a vote is taken a cabinet member may cast only one vote.
3. Between votes, the cabinet may continue to deliberate to gain consensus. During deliberations, the nominees shall not be present.

11.1.4 **Meetings.** The cabinet shall meet at least annually and may meet at any time upon call of the board. The board shall designate the moderator of the meeting.

11.2 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

11.2.1 **Members.** The executive council shall consist of all members of the cabinet, district supervisors, divisional superintendents, and such other persons as the board shall appoint.

11.2.2 **Powers and Duties.** The executive council shall

- A. Advise the president and the board on matters to be considered on the agenda of each convention.
- B. Serve in an advisory capacity to the president and the board on matters pertaining to the accomplishment of the mission of the Foursquare Church.
- C. Implement the policies and directives of the convention and the board.
- D. Strive to accomplish the objectives determined by the convention and the board.

11.2.3 **Meetings.** Meetings of the executive council shall be held at least annually immediately prior to or concurrently with the convention at a time set by the board. Other meetings, including telecommunication meetings, may occur from time to time as called by the board, the president or the general supervisor.

ARTICLE XII

Ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and the Foursquare Association

Ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel are persons who are licensed or ordained by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; who have a current credential card or an annual district license; and who are in good standing and in compliance with the Articles, these Bylaws, the “Declaration of Faith,” and “Minister’s Code of Ethics.”

Ministers of the Foursquare Association include licensed or ordained ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and other ministers not licensed or ordained by the International

Church of the Foursquare Gospel who elect to voluntarily associate with ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel as “Community Member Ministers” solely on a relational basis. The relationship between the Foursquare Association and Community Member Minister is by nature a voluntary relationship which may be ended by the minister or the Foursquare Association at-will.

12.1 MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

To be approved by the board for licensure as a Foursquare minister a candidate must show the fruit of:¹³

A. Salvation

B. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to the Foursquare “Declaration of Faith”

C. Calling to the ministry

D. Good moral character

E. Financial prudence and responsibility

F. Proficiency in Foursquare polity

G. Adherence to Foursquare doctrine and values

12.1.1 **International Credentials.** The secretary shall issue to each minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel a certificate, which shall bear the signatures of the president and the secretary, attesting to the ordination or licensing of the named person by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

12.1.2 **Annual Credential Fee.** Upon the payment of a fee fixed by the board, each minister shall be issued a credential card for the current year.

12.1.3 **Issuance of District Credentials.** Annual Foursquare district ministerial licenses may be granted by a district supervisor upon the recommendation of a district licensing committee established and acting in accordance with the rules established by the board.

12.1.4 **Credentials Issued by Other National Foursquare Organizations.** The cabinet and general supervisor shall formulate policies and procedures for recognizing for ministry appointment to a Foursquare Gospel church in the United States or extension ministry through Foursquare Missions International, persons with ministry credentials issued by and in good standing with Foursquare organizations of other nations, ensuring adherence to Foursquare doctrine, polity, ethics, and applicable immigration laws of the United States.

12.2 MINISTERIAL STANDING

12.2.1 **Active Status.** To have active status, as a minister of the International Church of the Foursquare

¹³ As a Foursquare ‘family’ we have long understood these to be the requirements for being licensed as a Foursquare minister, but even so, these core requirements are not stated in our bylaws.

Gospel a minister must carry current credentials with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and must satisfy one of the requirements for Foursquare appointment or non-Foursquare appointment as described herein after.

- A. **Foursquare Appointment.** Ministers serving in a Foursquare appointment may, in some instances but not necessarily, be employees of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
 - 1. The minister must be appointed, engaged and sponsored by, or serving with the permission of the board as a director, officer, administrator, supervisor, missionary, chaplain, teacher in an approved Foursquare Bible college or other ministry; or
 - 2. The minister must be engaged and sponsored by a local Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church as a pastor, evangelist, staff minister, teacher in an approved training institution, or other ministry of a local Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church; or
 - 3. The minister must be a recognized retiree of one of the foregoing.
- B. **Non-Foursquare Appointment.** Ministers serving in a non-Foursquare appointment are not employees of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

The minister must be serving with the permission of the board and employed, engaged, sponsored or appointed as a director, officer, administrator, supervisor, missionary, chaplain, teacher, pastor of a local church or other ministry not associated with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; or the minister must be serving with the permission of the board and employed, engaged, sponsored or appointed as a pastor or administrator of a Community Member Foursquare Association church.

12.2.2 **Inactive Status.** Ministers of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel not under Foursquare ministry appointment, board approved non-Foursquare appointment or a recognized retiree under the provisions stated above shall be considered “inactive.”

12.2.3 **Suspension.** At the discretion of the board, the credentials of any Foursquare minister may be suspended.

Credentials may be suspended while any of the following conditions exist:

- A. The minister is estranged and separated from a spouse or is involved in proceedings of divorce or legal separation.
- B. The minister is engaged in any legal action against this corporation.
- C. The minister is under investigation by the corporation for having committed any of the grounds of revocation of credentials set forth in bylaw article XII, section 12.2.5.A.
- D. The minister is in violation of the Articles or these Bylaws.

12.2.4 **Secession.** A Foursquare minister who voluntarily withdraws from membership in this corporation shall be regarded as having seceded.

12.2.5 **Revocation.** At the discretion of the board, the credentials of any Foursquare minister may be revoked.

A. **Grounds.** Any of the following shall constitute grounds for revocation of ministerial credentials:

1. Heresy
2. Unchristian conduct
3. Willful failure or refusal to comply with the provisions of the “Declaration of Faith,” the Articles, or these Bylaws as applicable to the minister’s place of appointment or service
4. Willful neglect of ministerial duties
5. Illegal, immoral, or fraudulent conduct
6. Remarriage after divorce while having a living former spouse (However, this ground shall be subject to waiver by the board upon appropriate findings and a recommendation by an ethics committee appointed by the board.)
7. Levying ecclesiastical war against this corporation
8. Conspiring to divide either the corporation or any Foursquare Gospel church
9. Uniting with or forming any other organization having purposes similar to this corporation, other than a Foursquare Association church, without prior board approval
10. Accepting ordination or licensing from any other similar organization, other than Foursquare Association church, without prior board approval
11. Willful or negligent failure to keep, or the destruction of, church records
12. Willful or negligent failure to comply with governmental regulations

B. **Procedures.** The board shall have the power to remove from a previously authorized Foursquare appointment any minister licensed by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel whom it may find to have violated the Articles or these Bylaws. The board may refer charges against a minister licensed by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel that ecclesiastical rules or beliefs have been or are being violated to an ethics committee appointed by the board for investigation and a written recommendation. The board, as an alternative to revoking Foursquare credentials, may impose suspension or discipline in an effort to achieve restoration.

C. **Reinstatement.** Any minister who has had credentials suspended or revoked and who

seeks reinstatement as a minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel shall make written application to the board. Upon proper proof of repentance, restitution, and correction, the board may restore credentials.

ARTICLE XIII **Foursquare Association Member Churches**

The board shall have the power to determine the requirements, procedures and regulations of membership and participation in the Foursquare Association. Requirements, procedures and regulations of the Foursquare Association not stated herein below are to be found in other materials. At any point of potential conflict, these Bylaws shall control.

13.1. ESTABLISHING FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCHES

- A. Approval for the establishment of a new pioneer church within the district's geographical boundary or the endorsement of an application of a church to the Foursquare Association may be given by the district supervisor after appropriate consideration of any existing Foursquare Gospel churches in the same area, subject to the approval of the general supervisor. A church of the Foursquare movement may be established outside the bounds of the United States with the knowledge and consent of Foursquare Missions International and the governing body of the Foursquare Gospel church in the other country.
- B. Prior to receiving a charter from the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Covenant Member pioneer churches shall be under the direct supervision of the district supervisor.
- C. Churches not previously affiliated with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel become Community Members of the Foursquare Association by satisfying the requirements of article XIII, section 13.2. C. Churches become Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches by satisfying the requirements of article XIII, section 13.2.B. Churches become Charter Member Foursquare Gospel churches by satisfying the requirements of article XIII, section 13.2.A and article XV.

13.2 MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOURSQUARE ASSOCIATION. All local churches located in the United States that intend to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as proclaimed by Aimee Semple McPherson, founder, are eligible for membership in the Foursquare Association pursuant to the provisions set forth in these Bylaws.

- A. **Charter Member:** Each church established by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel as a local Foursquare Gospel Church and in good standing as such is a Charter Member Church of the Foursquare Association, except for pioneer churches which are Covenant Members of the Foursquare Association until such time as they become Charter Members by being granted a charter by the board pursuant to these Bylaws.

A church not previously established by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel which successfully applies to become a local Foursquare Association Church by (1) transferring title to its real property into the name of the International Church of the

Foursquare Gospel, and by (2) dissolution and wind up of any separate legal existence and thereafter having no legal existence, articles of incorporation, bylaws or other organizing documents apart from those of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel shall also be a Charter Member Church of the Foursquare Association.

- B. **Covenant Member:** Pioneer churches established by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel are Covenant Members of the Foursquare Association until such time as they are granted a charter.

A local church which is not a church of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel may affiliate with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and other churches of the Foursquare Association as a “Covenant Member” of the Foursquare Association by making successful application

1. Stating its desire to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as set forth in the “Declaration of Faith,” compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson, in relationship with other churches of the Foursquare Association and to be governed by the articles and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
2. Revising the articles of incorporation, bylaws and/or other organizing documents of any other corporation, whether a predecessor corporation which previously governed the operations, ministry and personnel of the church or a newly organized corporation, such that the local corporation is authorized to hold title to real property but has no right or authority to govern the ministry, operations or personnel of the local church
3. Showing proof that any local corporation holding title to real property has been granted federal tax exempt status as a corporation whose nonprofit purpose is unequivocally related to the propagation of the Christian faith and message
4. Showing proof of having named International Church of the Foursquare Gospel as an additional insured on its casualty insurance policies for claims arising out of its premises, operations or activities, and
5. Paying any fee determined by the board of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

- C. **Community Member:** A local church which is not a church of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel may affiliate with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and other churches of the Foursquare Association as a “Community Member” by making successful application stating its desire to propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as proclaimed by Aimee Semple McPherson, in relationship with other churches of the Foursquare Association and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and by paying any fee determined by the board of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

13.3 PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION.

- A. **Trade Name.** The word “Foursquare” is a registered trade name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Use of the trade name “Foursquare” is by consent of the board of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, which consent may be withdrawn at any time by the board in its discretion. Unauthorized use is prohibited.
- B. **Names and Consent to Use Trade Name.** Charter Member and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel churches may use the name “Foursquare” (e.g. ‘a member of the Foursquare Association’; ‘a Foursquare Gospel church’; ‘Anytown Foursquare Church’) and are encouraged to include the wording “Church of the Foursquare Gospel,” “Foursquare Church,” or “Foursquare Gospel Church,” preferably the latter in its identifications to the public. The selected wording shall be prominently displayed. The name of the city or community may be added to the church name, provided it does not conflict with the name of another Charter or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church. Use of any slogan name requires prior approval of the district supervisor and the district council, the church council, and a majority of the church membership, according to national church office policies and procedures.

Community Member churches may use the name “Foursquare” in the following manner, “a member church of the Foursquare Association”.

13.4 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Each Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall
 - 1. Display in the main auditorium of the church the motto: “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Heb.13:8).
 - 2. Qualify applicants for church membership.
 - 3. Receive tithes and offerings for the ministry, maintenance, and expansion of the church and shall transmit promptly a tithe of its tithes and general offerings received during the month, according to provided instructions.
 - 4. Contribute offerings monthly for the support of Foursquare Missions International and transmit missions offerings promptly, according to provided instructions.
 - 5. Prepare church reports, monthly and annually, as required by the board. Reports shall be attested by the pastor and transmitted according to provided instructions.
- B. It is recommended that each Foursquare Association church
 - 1. Participate in the programs of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and its departments.
 - 2. Cooperate in the use, distribution, or display of literature, music, and other materials authorized or furnished by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and its departments.
 - 3. Support Foursquare Missions International’s special world missions projects.

4. Support approved Foursquare Bible colleges through offerings and gifts. (It is recommended that one percent (1 percent) of the church's tithes and general offerings be designated for this purpose.)
5. Encourage those inclined to prepare for the ministry to attend Foursquare Bible colleges or other Foursquare approved training.

13.5 **DISCONTINUING A FOURSQUARE ASSOCIATION CHURCH.** In extreme cases it ~~is~~^{may be} in the best interests of the Foursquare movement for the board to assume direct control over or close a Foursquare Gospel church either temporarily or permanently or to otherwise terminate the relationship between a church and the Foursquare Association. Lesser actions, including suspension or dismissal of the pastor or ~~dismissal of~~ the church council in accordance with these Bylaws, may also be appropriate.¹⁴

A. **Charter Member Churches.** A Charter Member Foursquare Gospel church may be permanently or temporarily closed and its charter revoked by the board, upon the recommendation of the district supervisor and the general supervisor, for any of the following reasons:

1. Willful noncompliance with these Bylaws
2. Decline in attendance below the point of viability
3. Profound discord among congregants or lack of unity with leadership
4. Loss of pastoral authority
5. Financial insolvency

B. **Covenant Member Churches.**

1. **Pioneer Churches.** The district supervisor may temporarily or permanently close a pioneer church for any of the reasons stated above or when, in the considered opinion of the district supervisor, the attempt to establish a Foursquare Gospel church has failed.
2. **Other Covenant Member Churches.** A Covenant Member church may be permanently or temporarily closed and its Covenant membership suspended or revoked by the board, upon the recommendation of the district supervisor and the general supervisor, for any of the reasons stated in article XIII section 13.5.A above.

C. **Community Member Churches.** The relationship between a Community Member church of the Foursquare Association and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and its Association is voluntary and may be terminated by any party at-will with or without cause. A Community Member church may resign its membership in the

¹⁴ These revisions amplify, but do not alter, the meaning of the text.

Association by written notice of resignation executed by the senior pastor or other authorized officer and mailed to the General Supervisor of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Resignation is effective upon receipt. Membership may also lapse for failure to pay any current fees which may be due. Membership may be reinstated by applying for and satisfying any conditions of reinstatement. The Foursquare Association may terminate the membership of a Community Member church in the Association by written notice of termination executed by the General Supervisor or other executive officer and mailed to the senior pastor or other authorized representative of the church. Termination is effective upon posting by first class mail.

13.6 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

13.6.1 **Requirements.** In order to be entitled to membership in a Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church, a person shall

- A. Show evidence of a born-again experience and a Christian life.
- B. Have been baptized in water by immersion.
- C. Subscribe and adhere to the “Declaration of Faith,” compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson.
- D. Agree to comply with the Articles and these Bylaws.

13.6.2 **Application.** A person desiring to become a member of a Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall

- A. Fill out and sign the church membership application form prescribed by the board.
- B. Meet the requirements set forth in article XIII section 13.6.1 of these Bylaws.
- C. Be approved by the pastor and any membership committee.
- D. Be accepted into the church membership at a church service.

13.6.3 **Standing.** A person’s membership may be “active,” “inactive,” “suspended,” or “terminated.”

- A. **Active Membership.** In order to be considered active and entitled to vote, a member shall have signed the membership roll and shall have

1. Regularly contributed to the support of the church.
2. Regularly attended church services if physically able to do so.

B. **Inactive Membership.** A member who does not fulfill the requirements of active membership shall be an inactive member.

C. **Suspension of Membership.** Pending a hearing with the church council on a proposed dismissal, a member may be suspended upon the recommendation of the pastor and a majority vote of the church council.

The pastor and the church council, after receiving proper proof of repentance and restitution, may reinstate a member who has been suspended or dismissed.

D. **Termination of Membership.** Membership in a Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall terminate only upon one of the following events:

1. Withdrawal from membership by the member
2. Transfer of membership as specified in these Bylaws
3. Absence of at least one year without response to church attempts to reestablish relations
4. Death
5. Dismissal from membership as specified in these Bylaws

13.6.4 **Service.** Members should serve the church by faithfulness in fellowship, perseverance in prayer, generosity in giving, diligence in missions, dedication in devotion, readiness in responsibility, with the objective of always working in the best interests of their church and the Foursquare movement.

13.6.5 **Privileges.** Active members shall be entitled to

- A. Participate in all church activities.
- B. Vote on all matters with respect to which a vote of members of the church is authorized, as long as they are 18 years of age or older.
- C. Serve the church in any capacity to which they are appointed or elected.
- D. Attend Foursquare district meetings that are open to members.
- E. Attend Foursquare conventions.

13.6.6 **Transfer.** Transfer of membership from one local Charter Member or Covenant Foursquare Gospel church to another or to any other church shall be deemed to have occurred when the member applies for and is accepted into membership with that receiving church.

13.6.7 **Dismissal.** A member of a Charter or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church, following a hearing before the church council and concurrence of the district supervisor, may be dismissed from membership, by written notice where possible from the church council, for any of the following reasons:

- A. Refusal to adhere to the “Declaration of Faith,” or to comply with the provisions of the Articles or these Bylaws
- B. Willful unchristian or unscriptural conduct
- C. Acting contrary to the best interests of the church
- D. Causing dissension or conspiring to divide the church
- E. Failure to meet the requirements of service set forth in bylaw article XIII, section 13.6.4

13.6.8 **Marriage.** Marriage is a biblical covenant relationship between a man and a woman established initially by God. Among Christian people there are those who, before they were converted, became entangled in their marriage relations and do not see how these matters can be adjusted. In these cases, it is recommended that the matter be left in the hands of the Lord and that such people walk in the light according to the Word of God. High standards of marriage are very essential to the individual, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. In order to maintain high standards, divorce is discouraged.

13.6.9 **Church Membership Meetings.** The pastor or a designated representative shall preside at all church membership meetings.

13.6.10 **Annual Meetings.** The pastor shall call an annual meeting of the church’s members upon not less than two weeks’ prior written notice to church members. It is sufficient to post the written notice in a prominent place at the church.

- A. All vacancies on the church council shall be filled at the annual meeting by a vote of or ratification by a majority of members present and members submitting absentee ballots.
- B. Any member who finds it necessary to be absent from an annual meeting may request an absentee ballot from the church secretary; the ballot must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the election.

13.6.11 **Special Meetings.** The following people may call special meetings upon not less than one week’s notice in the manner provided for annual meetings, stating the purpose of the meeting:

- A. The pastor
- B. A majority of the members of the church council after receiving prior written permission for such meeting from the district supervisor, who shall preside at the meeting or who shall name a representative to preside
- C. The board of directors, president, general supervisor or district supervisor. At such a membership meeting, a board member, the president, general supervisor or district supervisor shall preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV

Pastors of Foursquare Association Churches

14.1 **QUALIFICATIONS.** The pastor of a Charter or Covenant Foursquare church shall be a licensed or ordained minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel who has a current credential card. Every Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall have one minister appointed as senior pastor.

14.2 **SELECTION.**

A. **Charter and Covenant Member Churches:** When a Charter or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church is in need of a pastoral change, the district supervisor shall appoint a pastor after the district supervisor or his or her representative consults with the divisional superintendent and meets with the church council. Appointments shall be confirmed by the president and shall continue upon the recommendation of the district supervisor and the approval of the board. When a pioneer church is in need of a pastoral change, the district supervisor shall assign a pastor.

The spouse or other relative of a former senior pastor of a Foursquare Gospel church must receive prior board approval before a district supervisor may appoint him or her to the position of senior pastor of that same church.

B. **Community Member Churches:** When a Community Member church is in need of a pastoral change or assisting ministers, it may request the assistance of the district supervisor of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel for the district in which it is located.

14.3 **REMOVAL.**

A. **Charter and Covenant Member Churches:**

1. In the event it shall appear that a pastor of a Charter or Covenant Member church, other than a pioneer church, is not functioning in the best interests of the church, the church council may request a meeting with the district supervisor and the pastor to discuss the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved satisfactorily, then the district supervisor, after consulting with the divisional superintendent^{LS} and the district council, may submit a request to the board with a recommendation concerning whether to continue or terminate the pastoral appointment. The final decision on the district supervisor's recommendation shall be made by the board.
2. In the event it appears that a pastor of a pioneer church is not functioning in the best interests of the church, the district supervisor, after consulting with the divisional superintendent and the district advisory council and after receiving confirmation from the board, shall have the power to remove the pastor.
3. Notwithstanding action or inaction by the church council, the board may investigate a problem relating to any pastor and, after consultation with the

respective district supervisor, may take action based on its findings. The pastor shall have the right to appeal to the board. The board may discipline, suspend, or remove the pastor from his appointment. In cases involving removal, the district supervisor shall proceed in the selection of a new pastor as set forth in article XIV, section 14.2 of these Bylaws.

- B. **Community Member Churches:** Removal of a pastor of a Community Member Church is within the sole discretion of the authorized leadership of the Community Member church. The authorized leadership may request and receive the assistance of the district supervisor of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel where the church is located, if available.

14.4 **PASTORAL DUTIES.** The pastor of a Charter Member or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall

- A. Serve as the executive officer of the church, distribute the current bylaws to each member of the church council and, together with the members of the church council if the church has been chartered, have general responsibility for the church. The pastor shall be the chairperson of the church council and shall be responsible for its compliance with the Articles, these Bylaws, and other applicable regulations.
- B. Evangelize the community, strive for the salvation of souls, edify the church, and build up Christian life throughout the church by preaching, teaching, conducting services, and administering ordinances, including marriage only between a man and a woman. (It is recommended that Foursquare ministers not solemnize the remarriage of divorced people, except for those divorced on biblical grounds.)
- C. Keep or cause to be kept¹⁶ written records of all active and inactive members and preside at membership meetings.
- D. Ensure jointly with the rest of the church council, the fiscal integrity of the church, by seeing that all funds or gifts given to the church are deposited in the proper church bank account. , and The senior pastor shall be one of the co-signers on all church accounts as set forth in bylaw article XVI, section 16.1. F.1.3.¹⁷
- E. Execute documents at the direction of the church council on behalf of the church, subject to the express understanding that a pastor is not an authorized officer or agent of the corporation except for acts expressly authorized by these Bylaws. Further, any agreement involving real estate or any material transaction involving personal property that could be construed as binding the corporation shall be subject to the prior approval of the board. With respect to any such agreement or transaction, the pastor shall include on the document the following language, immediately prior to his or her signature: "This agreement shall not be effective until approved by the board of directors of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel."

¹⁶ This revision provides for the delegation of clerical responsibility while holding the senior pastor ultimately responsible for the task.

¹⁷ This revision clarifies that the task of church fiscal integrity is shared jointly by the senior pastor and the church council.

- F. Appoint, ~~with the approval of the church council, a~~ the church and pastoral staff to carry out the responsibilities of the local church. Payment of all church and pastoral staff compensation must be within the council approved annual budget of the church.¹⁸
- G. Encourage financial support of the church through tithes and offerings to meet all of the church's obligations.
- H. Present the cause and encourage the financial and prayerful support of Foursquare missions.
- I. Oversee the safety program of the church in order to prevent injuries to persons using church property and to the church staff, and to prevent damage to the church's property.
- J. Assure that the church's property and all its activities are covered by adequate insurance at all times.
- K. Implement policies and procedures to properly select and supervise volunteers and paid staff members in order to prevent abuse of children at church activities or on church premises. The pastor and other Foursquare ministers shall report suspected child abuse, as required by law.
- L. Carry adequate personal insurance for property damage, medical payments and public liability on each personal vehicle the pastor or church owns.
- M. Oversee compliance with and fulfill all applicable governmental laws, rules, regulations, procedures, and reporting.
- N. Endeavor to attend conventions, ~~and district~~ and divisional pastoral events.¹⁹
- O. Comply with the following upon termination of a pastoral assignment:
 - 1. Submit a letter of resignation to the district supervisor stating the intended date of resignation. The letter shall be given as far in advance of resignation as possible.
 - 2. Confer with and follow the advice of the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative in announcing the resignation to the congregation.
 - 3. Leave for the incoming pastor a complete record of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all members, along with details of all activities and transactions involving the church.
 - 4. Release the church from any claim for unpaid compensation that the church has been unable to pay, unless the creation of a continuing obligation to pay was

¹⁸ This revision makes clear that the appointment of assisting pastors is the senior pastor's prerogative. However, any compensation for assisting pastors must be within the council approved annual budget of the church.

¹⁹ Meetings of the ministers of the division are the most 'grass roots' meetings we have. They are important.

approved in writing by the church council, the district supervisor, and the board.

5. Release the church from any claim for labor or an investment of personal finances in the church, unless the creation of an obligation to the pastor for such items was previously approved in writing by the church council, the district supervisor, and the board.
6. Remove the pastor's name from all church accounts and agreements involving the church (which, if not accomplished by the terminating pastor, may be performed by the district supervisor, or the supervisor's appointed representative, as attorney-in-fact for the terminating pastor).
7. Break off contact with the members of the church except with the approval of the new pastor.

- 14.5 **COMPENSATION.** The amount of compensation due the pastor of a Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church shall be established by the church council. It shall be paid only to the extent that the church receives sufficient tithes and offerings to pay the church's other obligations, and, further, only to the extent of the balance of the church's funds received during the pastor's employment. The pastor shall expect no additional compensation from the church except upon the prior approval of the church council and the concurrence of the district supervisor.

ARTICLE XV

Chartering of Foursquare Gospel Churches

- 15.1 **REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHARTER.** Upon the recommendation of the district supervisor, a church may be granted a charter by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel when it has organized and submitted a charter application signed by not less than thirty (30) members who are 18 years of age or older. Any real property owned by the church must be vested in the name of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. A pioneer church will be chartered at the end of two years if it is endorsed by the supervisor as a missionally effective and healthy church in the areas of evangelism, discipleship and fellowship.
- 15.2 **PROCEDURES.** When a church has advanced to the stage where it is ready to become a Charter Member Foursquare Gospel church, the following steps shall be taken:
- A. A special meeting of the church's members shall be called for this purpose. A registry of charter members shall be drawn; upon the recommendation of the pastor, the district supervisor, or the supervisor's appointed representative, the initial church council shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years.
 - B. A presentation of Foursquare responsibilities and benefits shall be given by the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative, who shall inform the members

- church council²⁰ about the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel including the Articles, these bylaws, handbooks, report forms, information regarding monthly reports, mailing procedures, district, division²¹ and national functions, and banking and insurance procedures and requirements.
- ~~C.~~ ~~A registry of charter members shall be drawn; upon the recommendation of the pastor, the district supervisor, or the supervisor's appointed representative, the initial church council shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years.~~
- ~~DC.~~ A properly executed application for charter shall be submitted through the district supervisor to the board for consideration.
- ~~DE.~~ If applicable, title to any real property vested in the name of the church shall be deeded to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- ~~EF.~~ If applicable, any separate legal entity under which the church previously existed, operated or held title to property shall be dissolved and wound up in accordance with applicable state laws.

ARTICLE XVI

Operating Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel Churches

- 16.1 **CHURCH COUNCIL.** Every Charter Member church and every Covenant Member church with thirty or more adult members shall have a church council. While the senior pastor is ultimately responsible for the spiritual life of the church, the church council shares with the senior pastor the stewardship of the financial assets and property of the local church. The church council does not employ the pastor; nor does the pastor appoint or employ the church council.
- A. **Council Members.** There shall be not less than four and not more than twelve members in addition to the pastor, except upon prior written approval of the district supervisor. Members must be 18 years old or older and must be elected or ratified to the church council by the membership. The pastor shall serve as the chairperson of the church council.
- B. **Election.** Upon the expiration of the initial two-year term of the church council members appointed by the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative, the members of the church shall elect or ratify one half of the church council's members to serve for one year and the other half to serve for two years. Paid staff and people related to the pastor(s) of the local church by blood or marriage may serve on the church council only with the prior written consent of the district supervisor after review by the district council.

At each annual meeting thereafter, the members of the church shall elect or ratify successors for a two-year term. Church council members may serve for a third term upon

²⁰ Some of the administrative details (e.g. report forms, etc.) may not necessarily need to be shared with all the membership so long as the church leadership team (ministers, church council, etc.) are adequately informed.

²¹ See footnote #24

the request of the pastor and with the written permission of the district supervisor and election or ratification by the members of the church.

- C. **Vacancies.** In the event of the death or resignation of any church council member, the pastor shall, subject to the approval of the remaining council members, appoint another member of the church to complete the unexpired term. If the church is without a pastor or is operating with an interim pastor, the district supervisor shall make the appointment.

D. **Removal**

1. **Removal of Individual Members.** If a church council member fails to comply with the provisions of the “Declaration of Faith,” the Articles, or these Bylaws, or if the member causes dissension or dissatisfaction in the church, the pastor and church council, with the written concurrence of the district supervisor, may remove that member of the church council. If the council member believes that the removal is unjust, he or she may appeal in writing to the district supervisor. If no resolution is reached, a written appeal may be made to the general supervisor. If, after an appeal to the general supervisor, the issue remains unresolved, a written appeal may be sent to the board, in care of the president. The determination of the board shall be final.
2. **Removal of Church Council.** If a church council fails to comply with the provisions of the “Declaration of Faith,” the Articles, or these Bylaws, or if the church council causes dissension or dissatisfaction in the church, the district supervisor may, following consultations with the pastor and the church council, call a special meeting of the church members who may, by a majority vote, remove any or all ~~elected~~²² church council members. The district supervisor or an appointed representative shall preside at the special meeting of the church members. In the event of the removal of church council members, their successors shall be elected at a special meeting of the church members called by the pastor or the district supervisor. The terms of church council members so elected shall be in accordance with article XVI, section 16.1.B of these Bylaws.
3. In case of an extreme necessity, the district supervisor, with the prior written approval of the board, may remove one or more members of the church council.

E. **Meetings**

1. The council shall meet as often as necessary, but not less often than once each month, to care for the business of the church. Special meetings may be held upon the call of the pastor, or upon written request to the pastor by a majority of the council members, or by the district supervisor or the supervisor’s appointed representative. However, nothing in this section is intended to prohibit an unofficial meeting by the district supervisor or the divisional superintendent with any or all of the members of the church council.

²² Some council are elected, while others may be ratified or appointed to fill a vacancy. The removal provision is applicable regardless of how one came to be on the church council.

2. By a majority vote of its members, a church council can request that the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative attend a council meeting.
3. In a church without a pastor, the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative may hold council meetings after giving notice to each church council member.
4. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the church council, including the pastor, or, in the case of a church without a pastor, the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative.
5. In the case of a church without a pastor and without a functioning church council, the church shall operate directly under the district supervisor or his or her appointee until such time as a church council is duly elected and a pastor is appointed.

F. Powers and Duties. The church council shall

1. Be responsible for the fiscal integrity of the church.
 - 1.1 The church council shall assure that all funds received by the church shall be deposited in a bank account in the legal name of the church and assure that all disbursements of church funds are made by check or other non-cash debit.
 - 1.2 In the event of abandonment of a project or purpose for which any fund was created, the church council shall return the money in such fund to the donor(s) if possible; however, upon approval by the donor, the gift may be used for another project or purpose.
 - 1.3 The church council shall authorize the pastor and treasurer and, if deemed advisable, one or two other people, all unrelated by blood or marriage, to sign on church bank accounts.
 - 1.4 The church council shall require two signatures for all disbursements of church funds. One of the signatures shall always be that of the pastor or treasurer. ~~Disbursements shall be made by check or other authorized non-cash debit.~~²³
 - 1.5 When making disbursements of church funds via on-line transactions, the church council shall preapprove establishment of each electronic account prior to conducting a transaction via the account.
 - 1.6 Bank account statements and reconciliation summaries shall be presented at each council meeting.

²³ The deleted portion is redundant as the requirement is already stated in article XVI, section 16.1, F, 1.1

- 1.7 Council members shall have viewing access to online accounts and supporting documentation for bank account reconciliations shall be made available for review to any council member for any proper purpose relating to the council's duties upon request.
2. Act as a ways and means committee and make provision for the prompt payment of all church obligations, including but not limited to extension tithe, support of Foursquare missions, taxes, loan payments, insurance premiums, salaries, employer retirement contributions, if any, and other miscellaneous obligations based upon an annual budget approved by the council. Loan payment(s) shall have first priority on available church funds, after the payment of the extension tithe.
3. Transact such other business as may be required, review the monthly report, hear other reports, order the payment of bills.
4. Work with the pastor, the divisional superintendent, and the district supervisor for the betterment of the church, and assist the pastor in submitting constructive proposals to the membership.
5. Keep records of all active and inactive members, dedications, and baptisms.
6. Transmit monthly all tithes, offerings, and reports to the appropriate locations, as prescribed by the board.
7. Transmit monthly all missionary offerings received from the congregation to the appropriate locations, as prescribed by the board.
8. Supervise the use of church property, equipment, and furnishings for the purposes authorized in these Bylaws.
9. Establish the pastor's compensation, ~~following consultation with the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative.~~ The council may consult with the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative.²⁴ The pastor's compensation shall at all times be within the funding ability of the church after payment of all other current and any past due church financial obligations.
10. Establish a pastor's retirement program, if financially feasible, from the current income of the church, following consultation with the district supervisor or the supervisor's appointed representative. Contributions to the program shall be in addition to and based on a percentage of the pastor's salary.
11. Obtain, if possible, a term life insurance policy on the life of the senior pastor for the benefit of the pastor's spouse, in a benefit amount of at least \$100,000.

²⁴ The church council is not required to confer with the supervisor when establishing the compensation for the pastor(s), but may do so if desired.

12. Maintain full, written reports of the proceedings of any church council or church membership meeting and provide reports to the board or district supervisor upon request.
13. Appoint, with the pastor's approval, one or more delegates to represent the church at conventions, as authorized in these Bylaws.
14. Counsel with the pastor in the selection, engagement, or termination of assisting staff members and others as needed.
15. Require that all employment agreements and service agreements with contractors allow for termination by the church without penalty on not more than thirty days' prior written notice.
16. Act as a nominating committee to select candidates for the church council, subject to a vote or ratification of the members at the annual meeting of the church's members, and post the names of candidates at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
17. Be responsible for securing insurance coverage (as stated in bylaw article XVII, section 17.6) on all church property, vehicles²⁵ and activities, which shall be maintained by the prompt payment of applicable premiums.
18. Obtain written permission from the board through the district supervisor before operating any school, preschool, nursery school, daycare center, camp, or other similar church operation that could result in any of the following consequences:
 - 18.1 A material increase in intensity of use of church property
 - 18.2 The imposition of special zoning requirements
 - 18.3 The need for a special license or permit
 - 18.4 An increase in the church's normal insurance coverage
19. Be responsible for assuring that all school-related activities maintain a nondiscriminatory policy as required under law, and furnish the office of the general supervisor with information as requested, establishing compliance.
20. Ensure that the church shall at all times fully comply with all applicable governmental laws, rules, regulations, procedures, reporting, and generally accepted accounting principles.
21. Appoint a safety committee whose responsibility shall be to regularly inspect church grounds and properties. The committee shall observe activities to identify any unsafe conditions or practices and shall make recommendations to the church

²⁵ Self explanatory

council for corrective measures. The safety committee and church council shall closely oversee the well being of children and the prevention of the occurrence of child abuse on church properties or at church activities. If necessary, the church council may act as the safety committee.

22. By majority vote of the council, direct any serious disagreement between the pastor and the church council to the district supervisor or the supervisor's designated representative if, after repeated attempts to reconcile the issue, the disagreement remain.

- G. **Church Council Appeal Procedure.** Upon an affirmative vote by two thirds of its members, the church council may appeal any decision having to do with the well being of the church, the pastor, assisting ministers who serve the church, or administration of church property. The initial appeal must be made in writing to the district supervisor. If the issue remains unresolved, a written appeal may be made to the general supervisor. If the issue remains unresolved after an appeal is made to the general supervisor, a written appeal may be made to the board, in care of the president. The determination of the board will be final.

16.2 **OFFICERS/OFFICES**

- A. **Qualifications.** To hold office in a Foursquare Gospel church, a person must be a member in good standing of that church and must have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit or be an earnest seeker thereof.
- B. **Officers.** The following are the officers of a Charter Member Foursquare Gospel church: members of the church council, secretary, and treasurer.

16.3 **SELECTION**

- A. Members of the church council shall be selected by the active members of the church pursuant to bylaw article XVI, section 16.1.B.
- B. The secretary and treasurer shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the church council and the pastor.
- C. All other offices shall be filled by the appointment of the pastor, and those appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the pastor.

16.4 **SECRETARY.** The secretary shall

- A. Act as recording secretary at meetings of the members of the church, the church council, and of any other body or committee as the pastor directs.
- B. Keep or cause to be kept accurate records of members, dedications, baptisms, and other statistical information required for the monthly report.
- C. Act as custodian of the church books and records, membership records, documents and communications, except the books of account, which are required to be kept in the

treasurer's custody.

- D. Submit reports and records to the pastor and church council, and send to the board or district supervisor full written reports of proceedings of any church council or church membership meeting on request.

16.5 **TREASURER.** The treasurer shall

- A. Receive and disburse all church funds as authorized by the church council, and keep a strict written account thereof. All records shall be available to the pastor, church council, ~~and~~ district supervisor and board²⁶ upon request.
- B. Deposit or cause to be deposited all church funds in an account or accounts authorized by the church council.
- C. Issue checks on the church's account(s) only upon prior authorization by the church council in accordance with these Bylaws.
- D. Remit to the proper national or district office the funds specified in these Bylaws.
- E. Make monthly financial reports to the church council and the pastor and, upon request, to the church membership, district supervisor, ~~or~~ general supervisor, or board²⁷.
- F. Keep an accurate record of identified contributions and make available to the contributor a receipt at the end of each year.
- G. Submit to the pastor and church council²⁸ an annual report of all transactions.
- H. Submit to the pastor, ~~or~~ the district supervisor, general supervisor or the board special reports when requested ~~by either of them~~.²⁹
- I. In case of incapacity, permanent absence, or refusal of the pastor or treasurer to sign checks for payment of church obligations, the district supervisor shall be empowered to sign such checks as attorney-in-fact, or to designate another to act on his or her behalf.

ARTICLE XVII

Administration of Charter and Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel Church Property

All property and equipment acquired by any Charter or Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church, whether by purchase or gift or otherwise, is private property. All such property shall be secured and held

²⁶ Self explanatory

²⁷ Self explanatory

²⁸ Self explanatory

²⁹ Self explanatory

in the name of the “International Church of the Foursquare Gospel,” for the use of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, except for real property held in the name of a predecessor entity of a Covenant Member church or as otherwise expressly authorized by the board, for the use of the Foursquare Gospel church ~~or these Bylaws~~³⁰. The form of any deed, conveyance, or declaration of trust shall be subject to prior written approval of the board. All land purchases, plans for construction or reconstruction, and financing shall require the prior written approval of the board.

All property and equipment acquired by any Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church, whether by purchase or gift or otherwise, though held in the name of another federally tax exempt corporation other than International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, shall be secured, held and used solely for purposes unequivocally related to the of propagation of the Christian faith and message.

A baptistery shall be included in each church sanctuary.

17.1 **ACQUISITIONS.** Except for real property held in the name of a predecessor entity for the use of a Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church, should a Foursquare Gospel church desire to acquire, lease, occupy by month-to-month rental agreement, or encumber real property by lien, trust deed, or mortgage, or incur any liability or make any contract that might result in a mechanic’s or material lien, the pastor and church council shall obtain the prior written consent of the board.

- A. Prior to acquisition of any real property by lease, purchase, or any proposed construction, assurances shall be obtained, in writing if possible, from the applicable city, county, or state agencies to the effect that the real property is or will be zoned to meet the needs of the church operation and its functions.
- B. Plans and specifications for any proposed project shall at all times require that construction comply with all applicable city, county, and state building codes and all safety requirements.
- C. Prior to ~~entering into any lease or month-to-month rental agreement of real property or~~ undertaking any construction or acquisition of real property, a written resolution approving the ~~lease, rental agreement~~, construction, or acquisition and estimating the costs thereof shall have been passed by a two-thirds ~~majority~~ vote of the church members present at a duly ~~and properly~~ called meeting. Each member of the church council shall certify the vote of the membership by signing the resolution. Whenever construction is required, plans, specifications, cost estimates, and method of financing, together with the resolution and the complete “PT” forms, which are available from the district office, shall be sent to the district supervisor. The district supervisor shall send a written recommendation and copies of the resolutions, together with all documents relating to the proposed transaction, to the general supervisor, who shall present them to the board. The action of the board shall be evidenced by the passage of a specific written resolution authorizing the corporation’s president and secretary to sign documents in connection with the transaction. No other person shall sign any document committing the corporation unless specifically authorized by the board. ~~No lease shall be terminated without the prior~~

³⁰ As stated, the words “or these Bylaws” make no sense in the context of the sentence. It is probably a text fragment left over from an earlier edition of the bylaws which was not deleted solely due to scrivener error. This is a ‘clean up.’

~~written approval of the board.~~³¹

17.2 LEASES OF ~~PERSONAL~~ PROPERTY.

A. Personal Property. The corporation will not be responsible for the lease of personal property entered into by an individual or church for the personal benefit of an individual. Leases of personal property for the benefit of a church may be entered into upon approval of the church council. The church council may approve only such leases as are financially feasible from the current income of the church.

B. Real Property.³²

1. The Church as Tenant: Prior to the acquisition of real property as a tenant by lease or rental agreement, a written resolution approving the lease or rental agreement and estimating the build out costs, if any, shall have been passed by a two-thirds vote of the church members present at a duly called membership meeting. Each member of the church council shall certify the vote of the membership by signing the resolution. The district supervisor shall send a written recommendation and copies of the resolutions, together with all documents relating to the proposed lease, and any build out, to the general supervisor, who shall present them to the board. The action of the board shall be evidenced by the passage of a specific written resolution authorizing the corporation's president and secretary to sign documents in connection with the transaction. No other person shall sign any document committing the corporation unless specifically authorized by the board.

Renewals of leases or rental agreements in which the Foursquare Church is a tenant also shall be approved by the board, by the procedure set forth above, if the new monthly rental amount will be an increase of greater than ten (10%) per cent, if additional space will be added to the premises, or if other terms of the agreement will be substantially altered.

2. The Church as Landlord: Prior to the letting of church real property by lease or rental agreement, a written resolution approving the lease or rental agreement and estimating the landlord paid build out costs, if any, shall have been passed by the church council. Leases or rental agreements of five years or more, or containing automatic renewals which, if exercised, would extend the term of the agreement five years or more shall have been passed by a two-thirds vote of the church members present at a duly called membership meeting. Each member of the church council shall certify the vote of the membership by signing the resolution. The district supervisor shall send a written recommendation and copies of the resolutions, together with all documents relating to the proposed lease, and any build out, to the general supervisor, who shall present them to the board. The action of the board shall be evidenced by the passage of a specific written resolution authorizing the corporation's president and secretary to sign documents in connection with the transaction. No other person shall sign any document committing the corporation unless specifically authorized by the board.

³¹ The subject of leases is moved to the following section.

³² The proposed revisions below set forth the procedures for processing church leases, both as landlord and as tenant.

Renewals of leases or rental agreements in which the Foursquare Church is a landlord shall also be approved by the board, by the procedure set forth above, if additional space is being added to the premises, or if other terms of the agreement are being substantially altered.

3 No lease or rental agreement shall be terminated prior to the expiration of the term stated in the agreement without the prior written approval of the board.

17.3 **PROPERTY OF A PIONEER CHURCH.** In the case of a Covenant Member Foursquare Gospel church that is a pioneer church, property may be acquired and encumbered by the district supervisor with the prior written authorization of the board. A vote of those attending the pioneer church shall not be required.

17.4 **DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY**

- A. **Active Charter Member Churches.** In the event an active Charter Member church desires to sell, give away or otherwise dispose of a church building or other significant church asset, the pastor and church council shall follow the procedures described in section 17.1.C and shall obtain the prior written consent of the board. The proceeds shall first be used to clear any church indebtedness, and the balance shall be held for the benefit of the church.
- B. **Active Covenant Member Churches.** In the event an active Covenant Member church desires to sell, give away or otherwise dispose of a significant church asset, the pastor and church council shall follow the procedures described in section 17.1.C and shall obtain the prior written consent of the board of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The proceeds shall first be used to clear any church indebtedness, and the balance shall be held for the benefit of the church.
- C. **Inactive Churches.** If a Charter Member church ceases to function and if the district supervisor and district council ~~decides~~ decide³³ that the church building or other property should be sold, an appraisal shall be secured and presented to the board with the district supervisor's recommendation. The board shall have power to approve the sale of the property. After all indebtedness and costs have been satisfied, the net proceeds of the sale shall be deposited to the credit of the district for further church development, preferably in the same area.

If a Covenant Member church ceases to function, after all indebtedness and costs have been satisfied, the net church assets shall be deposited to the credit of the district for further church development, preferably in the same area.
- D. **Liquidation.** To prevent foreclosure on church facilities that could result in a complete loss of the delinquent property, the board, upon giving proper notification to the church, may dispose of the property of a Charter Member church to pay any and all debts, including any money advanced by the corporation or district. The net proceeds shall be held for further development of the church.

³³ Self explanatory

17.5 **MERGER.** No pastor shall take steps toward merging with another Foursquare Association church without the prior concurrence of the district supervisor, the district council³⁴ and written approval of the board.

17.6 **INSURANCE.** Each Foursquare Gospel Charter and Covenant Member church shall maintain adequate insurance on all church properties, vehicles³⁵ and activities. This obligation shall be the joint responsibility of the pastor and the members of the church council. It is recommended that every Foursquare Gospel church insure church properties and activities with the insurance program of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, handled through its insurance department, if available. Unless the coverage is written through the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel insurance program, the following requirements must be satisfied:

- A. Copies of all insurance policies shall be filed with the insurance department.
- B. The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel shall be named as an additional insured.
- C. All auxiliary activities and endeavors shall be properly covered.
- D. The amounts of required minimum coverage shall be comparable to that available through the Foursquare insurance program determined by the board.³⁶
- E. The policies shall be placed preferably with “AAA” or “AA” “A-” to “A++”³⁷ carriers as listed in Alfred M. Best’s insurance guide. Reciprocal or assessable mutual companies are not acceptable.
- F. The coverages listed below shall be secured when applicable. Detailed specifications and assistance are available from the insurance department.
 - 1. **CASUALTY**
 - Public Liability
 - Malpractice
 - Errors and Omission
 - Defamation
 - Medical Payments
 - Property Damage
 - Hired and Non-Owned Auto
 - Personal Injury
 - 2. **PROPERTY**

³⁴ Self explanatory

³⁵ Self explanatory

³⁶ The board will establish minimum required loss limits from time to time. Those limits may vary from one place to another depending on state law and other factors. The minimum required loss limits may not be the same coverages available through the Foursquare Insurance Department.

³⁷ These are terms of art unique to the insurance industry.

Course of Construction
Replacement Cost

3. **ACTIVITIES**
Student Accident
Sports
Volunteer Workers
Accidental Injury

4. **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

- ~~5. **HEALTH AND ACCIDENT**~~³⁸

The above requirements are not applicable to Community Member churches of the Association. The governing body of each Community Member church should determine for itself appropriate insurance requirements applicable to its operations and circumstances.

ARTICLE XVIII

Foursquare Churches in Other Countries

Inasmuch as local laws permit and to the extent as may be applicable, these Bylaws, as may be translated into the local language shall be considered as the general pattern of organization in a country where the Foursquare Gospel is preached.

The organization of a local church shall follow the general pattern of organization as set forth in article III, sections 3.3 and 3.8. B. 1, article XIII, sections 13.1, 13.3, 13.4 A and B, 13.6.1 - 13.6.11 of these Bylaws.

The licensing of national ministers and appointment of pastors shall follow the general pattern as set forth in articles XIV, XV, and XVI of these Bylaws, with the pioneering missionary serving in the capacity of the district supervisor, until such a time as the local churches may be formally organized with their separate registration or incorporation and bylaws.

The separate registration or incorporation and bylaws shall be approved by the board of directors.

Upon the formal and approved registration or incorporation and the establishment of bylaws, the national church shall have the privilege of sending an official delegate to the Foursquare convention.

ARTICLE XIX

Amendments

The articles of incorporation of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel are filed with the secretary of state of the state of California. Any amendments shall be made in a manner acceptable to the state and shall be filed promptly as amendments to the original of these Bylaws. The amendment(s) must first be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the corporate board. The board shall then

³⁸ This category is deleted. "Accident" is encompassed with "accidental injury" added to the "Activities" category. "Health" is deleted because the board does not require local churches to provide health insurance, except as required by law.

submit the approved amendment to the qualified voting members at either a regular or interim convention or by mail as provided for in these Bylaws. If the amendment to the Articles is for the purpose of complying with state or federal requirements, a simple majority shall be sufficient for passage. If the amendment is for any other purpose, a two-thirds vote shall be required.

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and entitled to vote in any corporate business session at a regular convention or an interim convention properly called for that purpose.

Members are invited to submit suggestions in writing for the betterment of the Foursquare movement, its bylaws, its operation, and the selection of personnel to fill offices. Suggestions should be sent to the following address:

Board of Directors
c/o Corporate Secretary
International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
PO Box 26902
Los Angeles, CA 90026

APPENDIX

Minister's Code of Ethics

As an ordained or licensed minister or Christian worker, I subscribe in full to the contents of the "Declaration of Faith," compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson, Founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

I declare myself in harmony with and bind myself to the objects, purposes and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

I dedicate myself to the faithful performance of the ministry to which I have been called and will at all times strive for Christian unity.

I pledge to give the fullest consideration to my fellow ministers and to seek the best interest of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and the cause of Christ.

I agree that I am obligated by my divine call as a Christian and as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to abide by, in ministry and life, the biblical standards of integrity and morality to which all Christian leadership is accountable.

I pledge that as a Foursquare minister I will officiate and solemnize marital unions only between a man and a woman.

I pledge that I will use, and authorize use, of Foursquare real and personal property only in accordance with the mission, purpose and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

I agree to comply with the foundational principles, processes and procedures of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, as set forth in the following Board approved documents: "The Declaration of Faith," "Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel." I will exhort my fellow Foursquare ministers to uphold the principles of a holy life and to adhere to the foundational principles, processes and procedures of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Should I desire to publish literature bearing the Foursquare name, I will first obtain the approval of the Board of Directors of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Should I desire to enter into a transaction in which my personal interests or the interests of those related to me by blood or marriage may conflict with the interests of the Foursquare Church, or may appear to conflict, I will first fully disclose the details of the transaction and receive my district supervisor's approval before proceeding with the transaction.³⁹

³⁹ A 'no conflict of interest' provision is in accord with the Biblical injunction to avoid the appearance of evil. It is best situated in the Minister's Code of Ethics because it is, at core,, an ethical matter.