



## THE **FOUR**SQUARE CHURCH

### SUMMARY OF 2025 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following is a summary of the proposed amendments the bylaw committee and ICFG Board of Directors are recommending for consideration. The actual language for the proposals is contained in a “redline” version of the bylaws posted on the website of The Foursquare Church, and includes various explanatory footnotes in the draft to aid in the background and understanding of the proposed amendments. The footnotes are not intended to be part of the proposed text of the bylaws and are merely for context and explanation.

#### Proposed Bylaw Amendments

1. Presidential Selection Process. As part of the 2022 Convention in Orlando and the 2023 Convention in Anaheim, as well as District Fall Leadership Conferences and other communications, a proposal for a revised presidential selection process was put forth for vote at the business session of the 2023 Convention. The proposal was put forth as one up/down vote for everything related to the revised presidential selection process. The proposal did not pass. From the various comments, before, during, and after Convention, it seemed clear that the significant concern related to changing an “election vote” between 2 (or 3) candidates to a “ratification vote” of one candidate. Upon further review and reflection, the board asked the presidential selection process task force to reconvene and assess which aspects of the 2023 proposal were received positively and which were not. After further review the task force and the board are proposing many (but not all) of the same revisions that were put forth in the Convention 2023. There is no proposal to change from an “election vote” to a ratification vote. This is a proposal to have the election vote take place prior to Convention, entirely absentee balloting and without any voting delegate being able to cast votes, instead of at Convention, with the idea being Convention would be a celebration of the selection. The bulk of the proposed bylaw amendments are in Section 7.1, but other amendments are located in bylaw Sections 5.3.C, 5.7, and 5.9.
2. Article XIII (Local Foursquare Churches) Section 13.6 – and also Section 14.4.B. In 2023 the Foursquare “Cause Committee” received requests from local pastors and leaders to offer clarity and resources regarding Foursquare’s belief on marriage, gender, and human sexuality. The committee reviewed our existing bylaw regarding marriage and looked through the resource materials that we currently have. Foursquare leaders were convened from the doctrine committee, districts offices, LPU, and various geographic and demographic contexts, as well as from different One Team roles. The work was designed to provide clarity and also discuss areas previously not addressed. The doctrine committee brought forth a recommendation to the board, which the board reviewed and approved. The outcome of this extensive process and investment of many leaders has resulted in a refreshed bylaw regarding marriage and specific statements around gender and sexuality that serve to support the bylaw as well as provide greater clarity to these important areas. While Foursquare’s beliefs around marriage and human sexuality have remained steadfast, the language used and what is said (and how) is something the board knows has differing approaches. We pray that God gives each of you grace as you minister with Compassion, Courage, and Clarity.

You will find these on the [foursquare.org](https://resources.foursquare.org) site under What we Believe:

<https://resources.foursquare.org/download/foursquares-statements-on-marriage-gender-and-sexuality/>



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3. Article XVI (Operating Charter, Covenant and District Foursquare Churches) Section 16.1.F. and Section 16.5. Upon review of “best practices” produced by third-party organizations related to handling of finances and bookkeeping, to aid in keeping our churches and pastors stewarding money with sound practices, proposals are being made regarding the local church role of “treasurer”. For one, we have found that the term “treasurer” is not nearly as commonly used as “bookkeeper” and the latter term more closely identifies the functions the role performs. Other changes have been made to ensure an appropriate separation of financial roles and duties to maintain integrity in church financial matters.