

THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following is a *brief summary* of the proposed amendments the bylaw committee is 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. Article V (Meetings of Members) Sec. 5.5.B. Article V deals with how The Foursquare Church conducts business “Connection”, our annual meeting. The proposed amendment clarifies the meaning of “*current*” credentials as it relates to voting at the business session or by absentee ballot. This clarification is not a change in policy: a minister must have paid their annual credential fee in order to vote at the business session or by absentee ballot.
2. Article VI (Board of Directors) Sec. 6.1.L and Sec 6.4. This proposed amendment deals with the composition of the board of directors. In light of Reimagine Stake 4 and the recent bylaw amendment ending the Foursquare Foundation and establishing the Endowment Fund in its place, the amendment proposes to remove references to Foursquare Foundation and Foursquare Financial Solutions as having nonvoting participants on the ICFG board. The proposed amendment also clarifies language regarding “*subsidiaries*”.
3. Article VII (Executive Officers) 7.1.2.F. This lengthy section deals with the process of choosing our president. The proposed amendment is a minor, non-substantive change to make consistent use of the terms “nominee” and “candidate” in the presidential selection process.
4. Article VIII (General Officers) Sec. 8.2.2.D. and 8.3 and various references throughout the bylaws. Pursuant to a request and direction from the National Church Office and the districts, the proposed amendments remove the references to “divisional superintendents” as a specific group of leaders denoted by that name. A more flexible concept of supportive leadership throughout the districts has been drafted into the bylaws to permit each district to contextualize and implement leadership structures that best support their districts.
5. Article XII (Ministers of ICFG) Sec. 12.3. Some language changes were made regarding clarifying that retiree status is still an “active” status, but not an actual place of “appointment”; and changes were made to remove language related to a place of service being “non-Foursquare”.
6. Article XIII (Local Foursquare Churches) Sec. 13.4.D. The proposed amendment states a simple process for local churches, district offices and the central office to follow should a congregation wish to leave Foursquare.

Continued on next page

THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

7. Article XIII (Local Foursquare Churches) Sec. 13.5.B. While the requirements for membership in a Foursquare church are not being modified, the proposed amendment allows local churches the flexibility to develop the process by which a local church accepts members, instead of a process dictated by an application prescribed by the ICFG board.
8. Article XIII (Local Foursquare Churches) Sec. 13.5.H. The section on marriage is being relocated out of the section on “membership” and will stand alone as a new section (Sec 13.6).
9. Article XIV (Pastors of Foursquare Churches) Sec. 14.3. The provisions on removal of a pastor have been clarified to give clearer authority to district supervisors to investigate and act on concerns relating to pastors.
10. Article XIV (Pastors of Foursquare Churches) Sec. 14.5. The provision regarding pastoral compensation upon a new appointment has been revised to provide greater involvement of the district supervisor and recognizes there may be times of need to use existing church funds to compensate a newly appointed pastor. This recognizes that transitions of senior pastors require extra care and collaboration between church councils and district supervisors. (Also added at Sec. 16.1.F.9)
11. Article XVI (Operating Foursquare Churches) Sec. 16.1, 16.1.D, and 16.1.E. This proposed amendment clarifies the district supervisor’s role when a local church is without a church council or without a pastor; it also adds a new concept that a supervisor can temporarily suspend a church council in extreme situations, pending board review; and clarifies provisions regarding quorum requirements for church council meetings. (Also added at Sec. 8.2.2., subparts H and I)
12. Article XVI (Operating Foursquare Churches) Sec. 16.1.F.1, subpart 1.4. The proposed amendment provides that *any* two church council authorized signers may sign checks, and if adopted, it will no longer be required that one of the signers is the senior pastor or church treasurer.
13. Article XVI (Operating Foursquare Churches) Sec. 16.1.G. This proposal adds a 60-day time limit for church councils desiring to appeal a board or supervisor decision to make their appeal (so that the right to appeal does not remain open indefinitely).
14. Article XVI (Operating Foursquare Churches) Sec. 16.5.I. This proposal is not a new concept, but is being added in another place for clarity and consistency. As a check signer, the church treasurer must be unrelated to the pastor and all authorized bank account signers. This concept is stated in the bylaws under the church council powers and duties (see Sec. 16.1.F.1, subpart 1.3), but it seems appropriate to have it in the section on the role of the church treasurer, as well.