

# Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada New Foursquare Church Development Team

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## **Mother/Daughter, Sponsoring/Sponsored Church Relationship Agreement**

Between: \_\_\_\_\_ Church and \_\_\_\_\_

### **Definition of terms:**

A Mother Church describes a church that has an organic relationship with the church planter, i.e. a stronger personal relationship and the new church is being birthed out of the mother congregation.

A Sponsor Church describes a church that agrees to take on the responsibilities of a mother church but has no organic relationship with the planter.

A Daughter Church has an organic relationship with the Mother Church and agrees to relate in the ways spelled out in this agreement.

A Sponsor Church does not have an organic relationship with the Sponsoring Church but agrees to relate to the sponsor in the ways spelled out in this agreement.

### **The goal: to see the daughter church become a healthy, self-sufficient, reproducing church.**

The present Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada (FGCC) policy requires an existing Foursquare Church here in Canada to serve as the mother church for any new church start.

- This is based upon the assumption that a local church can relate to a new work more effectively than can a National Office.
- This also makes rapid church multiplication possible; local churches can cover more new church starts than the National Office could alone.
- The term “mother” church is defined by: an established church that is in the position to give support, nurture, and encouragement to a church that is in the start up and developing stages.

A lead pastor of a local church cannot enter into a mother/daughter church relationship as defined by this agreement without the approval of the recognized leadership body, (Elders/Church Council) and the National Office.

A church may act in the role of mother church in at least two instances:

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- Where the mother church organically establishes a daughter church. In this instance, the interaction between the mother and daughter church would be clearer and based upon a stronger relationship.
- Where a church is in a position to adopt a church that is in the developing stages.

Although the lead pastor of the mother church will be the primary point of contact with the daughter church, the whole mother church needs to be involved in the mothering process and responsibility.

- If a pastoral change happens before a daughter church has reached the point of independence, i.e. chartered, a review of the status of the relationship between the daughter church, the mother church, and FGCC needs to take place to ensure clarity and continuity.

## Roles and Responsibilities:

- 1) The lead pastor of the daughter church will be spiritually submitted to the lead pastor of the mother church in the same way as staff ministers of the mother church are.
  - The lead pastor of the mother church shall have the freedom of addressing any concern.
  - The lead pastor of the daughter church will give serious consideration to all concerns expressed by the lead pastor of the mother church.
- 2) The lead pastor (or designate) of the mother church will meet with the pastor of the daughter church face to face or by phone once a month to review how things are progressing and to discuss any concerns or challenges.
  - The lead pastor of the daughter church will have a staff license from the mother church in accordance with FGCC licensing policy and will report to the lead pastor of the mother church at annual review time.
    - The lead pastor of the daughter church will seek a National license once the daughter church has been chartered and received its tax number. (The FGCC has a criteria for this transition)
- 3) The mother/sponsor church will be a resource center to the daughter church by:
  - Providing spiritual and moral support for the daughter church.
  - Developing administrating/accounting structure and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) reporting (T3010, T4s, Tax Receipts) until the daughter church is properly registered.
  - Resourcing the daughter church with materials, ideas, and perspective.
  - Inviting the pastor of the daughter church to attend any meeting that the lead pastor of the mother church feels might be helpful.
  - Including the lead pastor of the daughter church in times of training whenever possible.
  - Praying for the daughter church and keeping its needs before the mother church.

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**Administrative Manual and Administrator's Guide provide detailed policy and procedures for the following:**

- 4) Financial responsibilities include:
  - The mother church assumes no financial responsibility for the daughter church unless mutually agreed upon by both.
  - The sponsoring church must keep records of all money received as well as a detailed accounting of expenses. These records must be integrated into the accounting of the mother (sponsor) church so that tax receipts can be issued in a way that is in keeping with current CRA regulations. (The old way of simply exchanging cheques is no longer accepted by CRA)..
  - In keeping with FGCC policy, the tithe of all the tithable income of the daughter church will be remitted to the mother church to help cover administrative costs connected with mothering a daughter church.
- 5) Reporting:
  - The first line of reporting from the daughter church is to the mother church.
  - This means that the Gold Sheets, the monthly reports required by FGCC come to the mother church for review.
  - The daughter church will also send a copy of the Gold Sheet to the Unit Supervisor of FGCC as a courtesy, but any questions arising from the report will be addressed first with the lead pastor of the mother church.
  - The Mother/Sponsoring church needs to file a monthly report on the progress of the new work: 1) with the Unit, 2) the NFCD Team Leader, and 3) the National Office.
- 6) This mother/daughter church relationship shall be reviewed after the first six months and thereafter on a yearly basis at which time it can either be renewed or terminated.
  - This is in recognition that circumstances can change.
  - A yearly review will help to keep relationships strong and understandings clear.
  - This also builds in necessary accountability on both sides.
- 7) This agreement cannot be ended without consultation of both parties with the proper representative of the FGCC.

**Signed:**

**National Office Representative**  
**Lead Pastor of the Mother/Sponsor Church**  
**Lead Pastor of the Daughter/Sponsored Church**

**Date:**