

Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada New Foursquare Church Development Team

Adoption into the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada

This document outlines the process of how a local church can join the FGCC through the adoption process. The adoption process applies to an existing local church registered as a charity with Revenue Canada and wishes to become a Foursquare Church in Canada.

The following terms, based upon the metaphor used by the Holy Spirit to describe the church as a family, have been accepted as the way new churches will be added to the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada:

- Birth
- Adoption
- Fostering

Adoption:

- Churches and pastors will come to know of the FGCC in a variety of ways and will make contact in a variety of ways to explore the possibility of becoming a Foursquare Church. The church seeking adoption relates to the Foursquare Gospel Church primarily through its senior pastor.
- The end goal of the adoption process is a positive experience which will be good for the church seeking adoption and the FGCC as the adopting organization.
- The adoption process is overseen by the Office of the President of the FGCC in cooperation with the Foursquare Unit Supervisor for the region.
- Adoption into the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada is a process that typically takes 12-18 months. This may be longer due to specific complexities of a situation..
- The final approval of the adoption will be made by the National Board of the FGCC.

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Three important levels of discussion in the adoption process:

- 1) Discussions between the pastor of the church seeking adoption and representatives of the FGCC.
- 2) Interaction between the church's board of directors and FGCC leaders.
- 3) Public meeting(s) where church members to be informed of possible adoption and to have opportunity to ask questions about FGCC.

STEPS:

1. The local church seeking adoption expresses interest by making contact with the National Church through direct contact, the website, or through some other contact with the FGCC.
2. The senior pastor of the church interested in adoption has an exploratory conversation with a representative of the FGCC to determine whether adoption is appropriate to pursue or not.
3. The FGCC representative will direct the church interested in adoption to the Unit Supervisor for the region who will make contact and further the discussion and process of adoption.
 - The Unit Supervisor works with the senior pastor of the church seeking adoption to orient the church to the beliefs, values, philosophy of ministry, culture and structure of a Foursquare Church. Materials describing the beliefs (statement of faith) and the government of the church wishing to be adopted and the FGCC will be shared.
 - We recognize the importance of "peer mentors," those who have relationship with the pastor and church seeking adoption and the Unit Supervisor will acknowledge the importance of organic relationships in this crucial getting to know each other and may release much of the dialogue to the local church pastor in relationship with the pastor seeking adoption.

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4. During the adoption process, both the church seeking adoption and FGCC should look for opportunities to build relationship and mutual understanding.
 - Invitations to attend area pastor meetings/conferences, is essential to building relationship with other Foursquare pastors, and learning more about Foursquare.
5. At an appropriate time in consultation with the Unit Supervisor, the pastor(s) of the church seeking adoption will apply for Ministerial License with FGCC to ensure that they are licensable with FGCC.
 - The Licensing/Ordination Committee of FGCC thoroughly reviews the doctrine, character, and education of all those granted a license within FGCC.
 - The approval in principle of a pastor seeking adoption would be a crucial factor in the process leading up to a formal adoption. (Our policy allows the Licensing/Ordination Committee to grant licenses only to those pastoring a Foursquare Church).
6. Once the pastor and congregation of the church have come to a decision to pursue formally joining the FGCC, they will make application through filling out the application that will be submitted for the FGCC National Board to make a decision.
 - FGCC arranges for a review of the local church's financial books and records and gives the church the current FGCC financial statement.
7. Upon considering the request for adoption, the recommendations of the Unit and General Supervisors, and the audit report, FGCC's Board of Directors will make a decision to proceed with the adoption or not.
8. When adoption is granted, the local church will work with the National Office of FGCC :
 - To wind up its old tax registration number and apply for a new number from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. When the number is received, FGCC will prepare documents stating that the

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local church has been recognized as a Charter Foursquare Church in Canada (adopted) into the Family.

- To transfer legal titles and assets into the name of the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada. Any legal expenses incurred are paid by FGCC.
- Note: a church may choose to keep the old society for some future use but must operate the church under the auspices of the FGCC. This must be done with the full knowledge and consent of FGCC.
- To secure registration from the Vital Statistics department of the church's province to register the pastor to perform marriages.

9. The newly adopted church is welcomed to the Foursquare Family!

- A time for public ordination through the laying on of hands, before the congregation, will be arranged by the Unit Supervisor.

Benefits of becoming a part of the FGCC:

- Relationship
- Strong central structure that does a lot of what a local church registered under the Societies act would need to cover.
- A sense of family, connectedness, and unified outreach: we can accomplish more together than we could alone.
- Accountability and spiritual covering.
- One Constitution and By-laws that all Foursquare Churches operate under that simplifies things and makes it easier to plant other churches under the same society.
- Partner in the Foursquare Family in 147 plus countries around the world.
- Partner with Pacific Life Bible College as a strong training institution.

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Responsibilities of becoming a part of the FGCC:

- As a corporate Family of churches, we hold all properties in common.
- Abide by and operate under the Constitution and By-laws of FGCC and the current FGCC Administration Manual.
- This includes a tithe of 10% of your titheable income to FGCC.
- Participation in Foursquare Missions International (FMI).
- Participation in Unit gatherings and National Conventions/Conferences for training, encouragement and relationship.
- Promote the unity of the FGCC and the Church of Jesus Christ in general.