

Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada New Foursquare Church Development Team

Fostering Churches (Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada)

One of the most powerful metaphors used by the Holy Spirit to describe the Church is that of family. A healthy family serves as a model of how churches come into being and how they can connect.

In the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada, our New Foursquare Church Development Team has adopted terms that reflect how new churches can be added to our family:

- Birth (formerly referred to as plants)
- Adoption
- Fostering

This document outlines the process of how a local church can relate to another local church that is not an official part of FGCC in a fostering relationship.

What is fostering?

Main Entry: ²**foster**

Function: *transitive verb*

Inflected Form(s): **fostered; fostering**  /-t(&-)ri[ng]/

1 : to give parental care to : [NURTURE](#)

2 : to promote the growth or development of : [ENCOURAGE](#) <*fostered* the college in its early years>

- A foster situation may be temporary during a time of crisis.
- A fostering situation may be more long term to ensure the care of a underage child.
- A fostering situation may develop to the point of a foster child being adopted.

All three of these situations might apply to one church “fostering” another.

Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada New Foursquare Church Development Team

Fostering as a Foursquare Church

- One of the hallmarks of every Foursquare church should be its dedication to the cause of interdenominational evangelism.
- This should result in Foursquare church leaders being relationally connected with the other pastors and church leaders in their region from various denominations and church traditions: either in the form of a community ministerial or simply a consistent relational gathering with fellow pastors.
- Out of relationship, an opportunity may arise to: 1) Decide to resource and assist a local church that they are in relationship with or, 2) Be approached for assistance and support from another local church.
- When this assistance is offered, requested, from a local church from another denomination, this support would be considered the normal response to community ministerial participation.
- When this support is requested from, or offered to, an independent local church it is recognized that this may go beyond community ministerial participation and develop into a fostering relationship.
- As a fostering relationship, the Foursquare church would be in a position to provide temporary assistance, guidance, and support to the other church group. This assistance would go beyond relational support and consist of providing, resources, leadership assistance, and influence during the period necessitating 'foster care'.
- The goal of a Foursquare church during the fostering process is to only maintain the 'foster care' as long as is necessary to see the other local church restored to a place of health and independence.
- If during the process of fostering another church that church should desire to affiliate with the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada, or inquire about this possibility, the fostering church should then direct that church leadership to the New Foursquare Church Development team where they will receive information regarding the adoption process.