



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Foursquare Community Churches

- 1. What is the Foursquare Association?** The Foursquare Association (also referred to as ‘the association’) is a network of Christian **ministers** and **churches** that are in fellowship with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel to exalt Jesus Christ, propagate and disseminate the religious principles embraced in the Foursquare Gospel as proclaimed by Aimee Semple McPherson and adhere to the Foursquare Global Distinctives and Values. The association is in no way designed or intended to function as an unincorporated association or to be a separate legal entity. The Foursquare board of directors shall have the power to determine the requirements, procedures and regulations of membership and participation in the Foursquare Association. The association shall have no bylaws or separate governing board and shall hold no assets. Members of the association may not hold themselves out as agents for one another or of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel on the basis of membership in the association. The Foursquare Association is not an agency of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
- 2. What does it mean to be a Foursquare Community church?**
A Foursquare Community church is a separate legal entity governed by its own organizational documents and structure that chooses to affiliate with Foursquare on a relational basis of [shared beliefs](#) and adherence to the [Foursquare Global Distinctive and Values](#). Community churches are completely autonomous and independent legal entities. A Foursquare Community church affiliates with Foursquare but is not a Foursquare legal entity.
- 3. If a church joins the Foursquare Association as a Community church, do individual staff ministers also become part of the association?** The Foursquare Association offers two levels of membership to individual ministers: [community members](#) and [credentialed members](#). All credentialed Foursquare ministers are automatically part of the Foursquare Association. Additionally, the senior pastor of a Foursquare Community church must enroll (at no additional fee) as a community member of the association if they do not have a Foursquare credential. Other assisting ministers may also apply to be either community or credential members of the Foursquare Association by submitting an individual application through their local district office.
- 4. What benefits will our church be entitled to as a Community church?** A Community church will be entitled to participate in Foursquare national and district events, such as Foursquare Connection, district camps, pastor’s gatherings and training events. Community church leaders will also be able to access the Centers for Spiritual Renewal (east and west coast) and all online resources and educational programs offered by The Foursquare Church. Most important, the Foursquare Association is intended to be a relational network, a community. Therefore, it is our expectation that Community churches are fully engaged in relationship within the association and respective district. [Click here](#) to view a comparison chart, of the specific benefits and services available to the different categories of Foursquare churches.

5. **Does my church have to incorporate to become a Foursquare Community church?** While it is not necessary for the church to be incorporated to be a Foursquare Community church, we believe it would be beneficial. Incorporation as a nonprofit entity provides several benefits, such as the following: protecting the personal assets of the pastors and members from litigation, giving the church a perpetual existence, enhancing the church's credibility with banks and vendors and providing access to discounts and other benefits available to nonprofit organizations.
6. **Does my church need to acquire its own 501(c)(3) federal tax exempt status if it doesn't already have one, to become a Foursquare Community church?** While there is no requirement to obtain 501(c)(3) status to become a Community church, it is important to note that tax exemption under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) provides a number of benefits:
- Exemption from federal income tax
 - Tax-deductible contributions
 - Possible exemption from state income, sales, and employment taxes
 - Reduced postal rates
 - Exemption from federal unemployment tax
 - Tax-exempt financing

We recommend that every church consider obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

7. **Can a Community church be covered under the ICFG federal 501(c)(3) group tax exemption?** No, Community churches do not have any legal connection to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and, therefore, cannot be included under ICFG's group tax exemption.
8. **Will Foursquare have a role in the selection or hiring of the senior pastor, property decisions, or day-to-day operations of our church?** No, Foursquare Community churches are completely autonomous and are separate legal entities that are governed by their own organizational documents. Foursquare will have no control or say in the operations of a Community church.
9. **Is there a fee to join as a Foursquare Community church?** Yes, as part of the application and renewal process, a Community church will pay a fee to participate as an investment in the missional movement of the Foursquare Association. The annual fee is one percent (1%) of unrestricted tithe and offering income with no minimum and \$150,000 maximum.
10. **How will this fee be collected?** Community churches remit a monthly payment either by sending a check along with a printable remittance coupon, or by making a payment online. Both the printable coupon and online payment portal can be accessed from the following URL: <https://4sq.ca/communityfees>
11. **How will this fee be used?** Fifty percent of these fees will be used to supplement church planting initiatives; the other 50 percent will be used to support leadership development programs offered through Foursquare district offices.

- 12. Will our senior pastor be required to hold Foursquare ministerial credentials when we become a Foursquare Community church?** The Foursquare ministerial credential process is available to ministers of Community churches; however, there is no requirement that the senior pastor be a Foursquare credentialed minister for the church to join as a Community church.
- 13. If our church joins as a Foursquare Community church, may we use Foursquare in our name?** By definition, Community churches have a separate legal structure and governance from the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel but are part of the Foursquare Association. Therefore, Community churches in good standing are encouraged to use the name “Foursquare” in the following manner: “Member of the Foursquare Association.” They may also use the Foursquare Association logo on publicly accessible media.
- 14. Is a Community church eligible to participate in the Foursquare retirement plan?** Unlike Charter or Covenant churches, Foursquare credentialed ministers of Community churches will not receive a reallocation of contributions to the Ministry Extension Tithe Fund. However, Foursquare credentialed ministers of Community churches are eligible to participate in Foursquare’s 403(b) retirement plan by making elective contributions to their individual retirement accounts.
- 15. Will Community church pastors who hold a Foursquare credential be eligible to serve as district supervisors, executives, cabinet or board members?** No, candidates for those roles are selected from among the pool of ordained ministers appointed to Foursquare Charter or Covenant churches. .
- 16. May a Foursquare Community church end its association with Foursquare at any time?** Yes, this is a voluntary relationship that may be ended by the Community church or Foursquare at any time.
- 17. If our church is interested in becoming a Foursquare Community church, whom should we contact?** Please contact your [district office](#).