

The Foursquare Church



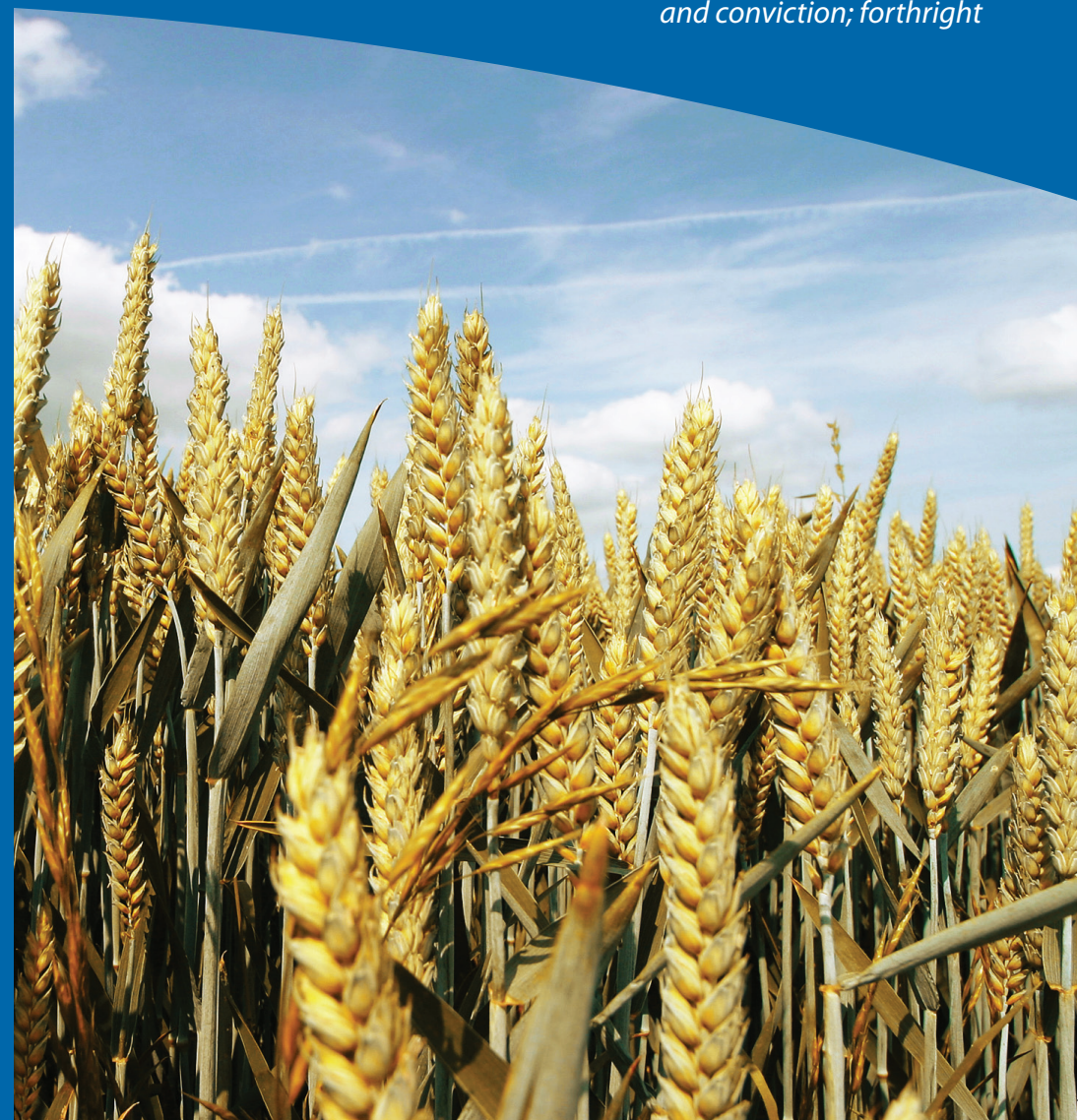
Introducing The Foursquare Church

*four-square: 'for - skwa(a)r -
marked by boldness, balance
and conviction; forthright*

**"JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY
AND TODAY AND FOREVER!"**
Hebrews 13:8

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The Mission FOURSQUARE

The term "Foursquare" is found throughout scripture. It is used to describe balance and stability. God touched the life of Aimee Semple McPherson and gave her insight into the message that He wanted her to preach—the Foursquare Gospel—a simple, four-point declaration that reached into the hearts of thousands as it proclaimed Jesus Christ as:

**Savior · Baptizer with the Holy Spirit
Healer · The Soon-coming King**

The ministry that resulted from that clear communication soon became a movement. On December 28, 1927, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel was organized to facilitate the establishment of new congregations.

The mission of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel is to present Jesus Christ, God's Son, as the incarnate Word. Its task is to present the message in culturally appropriate and relevant ways around the world. Today, The Foursquare Church ministers in approximately 140 countries and has more than 8 million members and adherents.

The Church FOURSQUARE

The church's governance is called "modified Episcopal." This style of government has provided definition and direction in maintaining a solid and balanced relationship between local congregations and denominational leadership.

1. The following are members of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel:
 - a. Officers and directors of the corporation
 - b. Ordained and licensed ministers holding current credential cards
 - c. Members in good standing of Foursquare churches.

Foursquare church members have an interest in and a commitment to the local fellowship; they also have the right to be represented by church delegates at the annual Foursquare convention where major corporate business is conducted:

2. Each Foursquare congregation in the United States is part of a district. Each district is under the leadership of a district supervisor. The district supervisor is to be concerned with the health and status of every church in the district, the well-being and the leadership of every pastor, and the on-going business matters concerning the congregations.
3. Foursquare pastors are appointed by the district supervisor with the approval of the board of directors and in consultation with local church councils. In this sense, Foursquare pastors are "sent ones" and "gifts" to local bodies of believers (Ephesians 4:8, 11, 12). Consideration is given to the suitability of an individual pastor in relation to the present needs of the congregation.
4. Each congregation is led by the pastor and a church council. Foursquare members have the privilege of electing church council members, who work with the pastor in the ongoing business matters of the church.

5. Church properties are held in the name of the Foursquare organization. When decisions regarding purchase, sale, relocation, or major financial obligations are to be made, the local congregation, the district supervisor and the denomination's board of directions, in accordance with the bylaws, join together to understand the will of the Lord.

This balance has freed local leaders to minister with a minimum of concern for physical matters, but with a maximum of counsel and care regarding major business matters. The corporate structure gives every local Foursquare church added health and strength.

The Fellowship FOURSQUARE

The International church of the Foursquare Gospel conducts its corporate business through a president, board of directors, the Foursquare cabinet and an executive council. The highest seat of authority is the convention body, which alone has the authority to make or amend the bylaws of The Foursquare Church.

District supervisors are appointed to serve groups of churches throughout the United States and are ratified by the pastors they serve. Each congregation is cared for by a pastor; council members, pastoral staff, deacons and elders may also be involved in leadership. Churches are expected to tithe to the denomination and support Foursquare Missions International, the church's foreign missions department.

From its inception the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel has ordained women in ministry. Both men and women are allowed to minister at all levels of leadership within the church.

The Foursquare Church actively participates in the National Association of Evangelicals, the American Bible Society, the Pentecostal/Charismatic Church of North America, the Pentecostal World Conference, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies. Many of its leaders, pastors and members serve on the executive boards and committees of parachurch agencies and endeavors.

