

# THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

**GLENN C. BURRIS JR.**  
*President*

April 9, 2020

Dear Foursquare Board of Directors:

Greetings in Jesus' name!

As I write this note, I am so grateful for the amazing privilege of serving the Foursquare family for the past 44 years as youth pastor, pastor, district supervisor, general supervisor and president. Those years have been marked by God's faithfulness and the enduring friendship of so many people, here and abroad.

I'm also grateful that the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG) board and 2018 convention body voted in confidence to move forward with an early presidential election to give the new leader time to finish well at his or her current post, and to also have time to progress into learning the context, the details, the role and the depth of this servant opportunity to lead The Foursquare Church.

I'm happy to share that all the things we even imagined have been best served by an early entrance into this apprentice season. Even the lag time of being able to transition a church fit into the newly formed process. Of course, no one knew the events of our current world, but the Lord did.

Randy Remington and I have had a strong bond of commitment to see the future of this movement fulfill its divine purposes. We have shared together, laughed together, strategized together and prayed together. He has gotten to know the executive team and the central office staff. He's been able to spend quality time with supervisors and U.S. leaders.

None of this has been so scripted that we couldn't adjust, listen to the voice of the Spirit, and counsel together over next steps. No one saw the current global crisis happening so fast, and what dramatic changes in the landscape that it has brought. I'm incredibly grateful that our cabinet meeting and dedication of the Aimee Semple McPherson Building, though in the early stages of the highly contagious virus, did not contribute to the spread. We obviously had lots of warring angels around our times of prayer and the Word.

I think those of us who heard Randy's message on prayer at the building dedication in March sensed a mantle falling upon him to lead this movement. I know I did. I left Los Angeles with great joy and a sense of confidence that the Lord saw all of this way ahead of time. Though we have enormous challenges in front of us, I'm thankful that the ICFG board and our teams have led in ways that prepared us for this. There is a high level of trust, goodwill, a connected global family, solid resources, fiscal disciplines, generosity and a passion for Spirit-filled strategies, as well as a focused mission for the lost.

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## **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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Just this week, after experiencing the beginning of a significant staff transition with Communications (Tammy Sevcov is transitioning later this summer) and watching Randy step up and lead the conversations about long-term strategies, it became obvious to both of us that we were beginning to switch seats. I think about the time that I was named interim president in Anaheim. Though I didn't formally take office, I immediately began to lead in areas that Pastor Jack made room for. I was afforded a strong platform of leadership and visioning concerning the future.

In talking with our team this week, we believe that it's the right time to begin to transfer some of the day-to-day responsibilities forward toward Randy. When he did the deep dive into Communications, he discovered the importance of unpacking the behind-the-scenes dynamics that allow for good decisions. This move will allow a more strategic direction than simply a tactical one. He has a chance to look at how each decision will affect another.

Our plan is to begin April 10, the day after our ICFG board meeting. That will allow us to have me continue to focus on ICFG board matters, some of the financial matters that I'm more familiar with (such as the Endowment), the interim convention (the presidential inauguration), and the global church. Of course, as Randy moves forward, and at any time, the above will become more appropriate to put under his leadership.

Jim Scott and Ted Vail practiced this model; so did Sterling Brackett and Adam Davidson. Though the primary officers had final authority, their successors were given the opportunity to step into and begin assessing where important next step decisions were needed, before the formal appointment took place. It's the classic "I do, and you watch. We do together. You do, and I watch. Then you do." Because we tend to be principle-driven, as opposed to position-driven, these models serve us and our mission well.

What does that mean for the U.S. church? Randy will immediately begin directing the executive team. He's already weighed in on a larger context with the central office, directing chapels and Communications. But in this new season, he will process all decisions with the officers for FMI, NCO, COO, CS and CFO. While he and I will still consult and talk on a regular standing communication plan, there will be a full empowerment to lead the U.S. church. He will lead our communications and engage when situations arise that need executive direction. He will begin thinking through assessments and adjusting some of the structures and role responsibilities. Of course, any officer appointments will be done with board partnership. This is key, though, for him to move forward as the next leader.

For me, there will be a strategic absence in some of these meetings so that he can function without feeling he needs to side-step my presence. We did that at the cabinet, and that gave room for people to express opinions and thoughts without feeling like they were dishonoring anyone. When I am communicated to about a decision, that will immediately go to Randy and the team. I'm obviously always available for consultation.

I'm sure things will come up from time to time, and we'll need to talk and strategize our way through them. There will be multiple things we'll need to consult and pray together on. But this current crisis has accelerated our timetable. The officers are all on board. They feel confident that this is the right direction and the right timing.

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My sense of responsibility comes in conflict during this plan. I never want to leave my post when I feel an assignment. But I know this is different. This has a right feel to it. Randy is the duly elected successor, and this will actually help him, and us, with momentum to begin planning and thinking long term. What we know is that our short-term decisions will have long-term implications, and it's only fair and right to let him help lead those conversations.

My commitment to this family began long before I held this role. Debbie and I will continue to pray for the leadership and support them, the way we have always been supported. We look forward to years of good health and serving the Lord's next season for us. Thank you for your unwavering support of us, your strong prayers for us during challenging times, your encouragement on a regular basis and your love for Jesus' church. Your partnership in advancing the kingdom of God through The Foursquare Church is unequalled. I will forever be grateful.

I know we'll still have future conversations, and we're still planning a connect later this summer. We'll also be talking about how we can work together for an interim convention, to do the things we need to secure decisions for the future. Blessings on you, your family, your ministry, and our national and global Foursquare tribe. We love and appreciate you!

Till all have heard!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Burris Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glenn Burris Jr.