

# MISSION PARTNER



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SOMA CITY CHURCH





# MISSION PARTNER

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# WHY MISSION PARTNERS



When Jesus was instructing His closest friends and followers before ascending into heaven, He told them two things: that they were to make disciples and that He would send the Holy Spirit to help them. Jesus entrusted the entire future of the church to people who still had a ton of questions, who would make lots of mistakes, and who still didn't really know what they were doing. But He gave them a pattern that has lasted two thousand years. Invest in people showing them how to live the Jesus life, and let the Holy Spirit guide and empower them.

***Simply put, our vision is to be the best friend our city has ever known. ”***

As Soma practices being the best friend our city has ever known, there is an increasing need to develop people who can do those things. As Soma continues to grow and see people come to life in Jesus, there needs to be an organized process for helping people develop as disciples of Jesus.

This is where Mission Partners come in. Mission Partners are people at Soma who know who they are in Christ, know that God has called them to play a part in His story, and have tangible practices for staying connected to God and others. They are capable of showing others what it looks like to follow Jesus because they themselves are following Jesus. They aren't perfect, but they are on the journey and can help those behind them take steps.

Mission Partners are people who are deeply rooted in Christ and because of this, good things grow in their life. Things like generosity, serving, intentional community, and helping others mature. For Soma to continue to grow and live out its mission, we have to have an ever-growing number of people who follow the pattern Jesus gave us. People who invest in their neighborhoods and networks. The world needs Mission Partners because the world needs living examples of Christ and His love.

The church needs mission partners because the church needs people who can shepherd and lead others. People need mission partners because it is impossible to become spiritually mature in isolation.



# THE ROOTS

If things like generosity, community, serving, and caring for others are the fruits we want to see grow, then what kind of roots and soil produce that outcome? What are the inputs that lead to those particular outputs?

3 primary inputs have historically produced people who become this kind of people. People who live from a secure identity in Christ. They know who they are. People who believe God is redeeming the world and as part of the church have a part to play. Finally, people who have rhythms and habits for keeping them connected to God and others.

***I KNOW WHO  
I AM IN CHRIST***

***I HAVE A PART  
TO PLAY***

***I HAVE RHYTHMS  
FOR KEEPING ME  
CONNECTED***

# 01.

## I KNOW WHO I AM IN CHRIST

The first foundational root is a secure identity in Christ. While this is a process that lasts a lifetime, people who have learned to live from their identity in Christ are free to serve and follow Christ knowing that the best possible decision they can make is to trust Him in how they live life.

### **I AM LOVED**

I have a strong confidence in and live from the fact that I am fully loved and forgiven. I don't have to earn anything.

### **GOD IS GOOD**

I have a strong confidence in and live from the fact that God is good and loving.

### **GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR ME**

I have a strong confidence in and live from the fact that God will give me what I need. He'll give me the time, energy, and resources even when I can't see where they come from.

### **GOD CAN BE TRUSTED**

I have a strong confidence in and live from the fact that God can be trusted. Even when things are hard, painful, and completely unfair.

# 02.

## I HAVE A PART TO PLAY

A core doctrine of a Christian worldview is that God is actively at work renewing and redeeming all of creation. Not only is God at work, but He has created and gifted people to participate in this work. Until people understand and embrace this worldview, obligation or guilt tends to be the main driving force for people's participation in the work of the church.

### **I AM GIFTED**

I have been gifted by the Spirit with a part to play in God's restoration of all things and I use my gifting to help mature the body of Christ and bless the world around me.

### **I AM PART OF A TEAM**

I understand that the church functions best as a team working together. We aren't a collection of individuals, we are a unified whole.

### **GOD'S DOING SOMETHING**

I understand the church is a proactive force for accomplishing God's will in this world and not a space to hide away from the world.

### **I WILL FOLLOW GOD**

I understand that at points throughout my life, I will have to give up things I want to continue following God in his plan.

# 03.

## I HAVE RHYTHMS THAT KEEP ME CONNECTED

Without being rooted in our relationship with God and others, we drift as the busyness of life and competing demands pull us in other directions. Furthermore, we lose touch with the nourishing and sustaining power of the Spirit at work in us. Rhythms ensure that the things we say we believe show up in the way we live our lives.

### **RHYTHMS WITH GOD**

I have a regular rhythm for spending time with God and listening to Him.

### **RHYTHMS WITH THE CHURCH BODY**

I have rhythms for how I invest in other Jesus followers and how they invest in me.

### **RHYTHMS WITH THE WORLD**

I have a regular rhythm of serving and befriending those who do not yet follow Jesus.

### **RHYTHMS WITH MY FAMILY**

In my family, we have rhythms for how we love each others and live on mission as a family.



# THE FRUIT

If people have been well trained in developing the root system of knowing who they are in Christ, knowing the part that they play in God's story, and have developed rhythms for living that out in all areas of life, then it should naturally lead to generous people, people who serve, and people who live out the mission of circles, and people who shepherd others.

Furthermore, you have people who are primed to become leaders of others and can sustain the needs of a growing church. Far too often churches get stuck when the spiritual immaturity, the lack of leaders, the lack of generosity, and the lack of care within the body outstrips what the paid staff can do.

**PEOPLE WHO ARE GENEROUS**

**PEOPLE WHO SERVE WITH JOY**

**PEOPLE WHO HAVE AUTHENTIC  
COMMUNITY**

**PEOPLE WHO CAN SHEPHERD AND  
CARE FOR OTHERS**

**PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON MISSION**



# THE MISSION PARTNER PROCESS

## 01. Active Training

Through a combination of video teaching and practical exercises, mission partners grow in their understanding, awareness of, and ability to live a Jesus-centered life. This culminates in the creation of a guided plan for how you live out the mission partner life.

## 02. Personal Coaching

Coaching is split into 2 parts. In the first phase which lasts 3 months, people internalize the 3 core roots through a combination of video teaching, practical exercises, and one-on-one meetings with a coach to help them implement into their lives.

The second phase is taking the material and exercises you’ve learned and turning it into a plan you can live out as an individual or as a family.

## 03. Commissioning Service

We publicly acknowledge those who have completed the process and commission them to be the best friend their neighborhood has ever known.

## 04. Weekend Retreat

Several times a year we do a weekend intensive focused on helping people hear God and respond to Him in their normal everyday life.

# FAQ



### WHO WILL BE MY COACH?

You'll be assigned a coach that we will put you in contact with. We try to match coaches with people so that they can get the most out of this journey.



### What does the Coaching consist of?

You will meet with a coach 4 times throughout the training. These checkin's are designed to help you take the material and implement it into your life. This isn't one size fits all. The goal is to tailor the material to your life and live it out.



### WHAT IS THE RETREAT?

This is a weekend away, where we help people learn to walk in every day listening to God. God is speaking all the time and many of us haven't really learned how to listen to and respond to the voice of God. This retreat is built around helping you connect with your father in heaven who wants to tell you how much he loves you.



### AM I BEING COACHED TOGETHER BY THE SAME PERSON AS MY SPOUSE?

Yes. The goal is for families to grow together and have conversations together.



### WHO IS TEACHING THE COURSE?

Several of our staff.



### WHAT WILL THE 1:1 COACHING LOOK LIKE?

You'll meet up in person or via Zoom for an hour. In these sessions, you and your coach will walk through some guided questions designed to help you take the material and implement it into your life. This isn't one size fits all. The goal is to tailor the material to your life and live it out.



### WHAT ARE THE STATEMENTS OF FAITH AND THE MISSION PARTNER AGREEMENT?

The state of faith is a set of core beliefs that guide Soma City. This makes sure that those who are bought into Soma understand what we believe and why we believe. The mission partner agreement outlines the core practices that a mission partner engages in as part of their regular way of living.



### WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT?

- 1h/month coaching conversation
- 2h/month in videos and practices.

But the bigger thing to look at is what you will get out of this. This has the potential to change the entire trajectory of your life. The next six months could change the next sixty years of your life and the lives of those who come after you.