

# Welcome to phys•i•ol•o•gy

CHOOSE. KNOW. LIVE



{sōma}church



# phys•i•ol•o•gy

**the organic process or functions in an organism  
or in any of its parts that produce LIFE.**

PHYSIOLOGY is a four-section class designed to help you become an active member of SomaChurch.

Whether you are brand new to our community and would like to learn more about us or you have been worshiping with us for a while and would like to get involved and become a Member, this class is for you!

Being a member of the body of Christ means being connected to life.

We believe that Jesus is the Life.

We also believe that connection to the life of Jesus Christ happens primarily through our commitment to His body, the church, of which He is the head. (Eph 5:23, Col 1:18)





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Section One

1

# WHO WE ARE



**In this section, we will cover:**

**Vision & Values**

*Why SomaChurch Exists and What We're All About*

**Healthy Transitions**

*The Power of a Pastoral Recommendation*

# VISION

SomaChurch is called **to help people**  
choose The Way, know The Truth and **live The Life of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life;  
no one comes to the Father but through Me.

**John 14:6**

**...choosing The Way**  
Evangelism

**...knowing The Truth**  
Discipleship

**...living The Life**  
Community

# SHARED VALUES

## **AUTHENTIC WORSHIP**

We value genuine encounters with God that produce life-changing results.

*(John 4:23) (Philippians 3:3) (Romans 12:1-2)*

## **PERMEATING RELATIONSHIPS**

We value friendships that go beyond superficial into the realm of supernatural grace allowing us to experience life together both in celebration and in suffering.

*(Colossians 3:12-17) (Acts 2:42-47) (Romans 12:15)*

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL TRUTH**

We value teaching the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit believing this to be the only thing to bring about true change in our lives.

*(Philippians 3:17-21) (John 8:32) (John 17:17)*

## **SELFLESS GIVING**

We value the extravagant pouring out of our resources hoping that every selfless act will communicate our love for God and our love for others.

*(Colossians 3:12-17) (Acts 2:42-47) (Romans 12:15)*

## **INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**

We value doing things on purpose to mature the saints and equip them for the works of ministry.

*(Matthew 28:19) (John 21:15-17) (1 Peter 5:2) (Ephesians 4:11-12,16) (Romans 12:4-5)*

## **MISSIONAL LIVING**

We value living out the love of Jesus Christ believing it will compel the spiritually lost to follow Him.

*(John 13:35) (Matthew 14:16) (Matthew 25:35) (1 Timothy 6:18) (James 1:27, 2:15-16) (Acts 2:45) (1 John 3:17)*

## **EXCELLENT MINISTRY**

We value doing things to the best of our ability knowing that this pleases God and communicates to people that we care.

*(Daniel 6:3) (Colossians 3:23) (Ephesians 6:7-8) (Psalm 119:99) (Psalm 33:3) (Proverbs 22:29)*

# THE POWER OF A PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION

A Pastoral Recommendation is a verbal or written affirmation from your previous church leaders that you are coming to SomaChurch with a healthy heart.

## 1. It may be the biblical model.

Romans 16:1-2, Ephesians 6:21-22, Philippians 2:19-30, Philemon 10:21

## 2. It's a reminder of how important the Local Church is in our lives.

Ephesians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Hebrews 10:25

## 3. It may expedite ministry opportunities within the new Church.

**1 Corinthians 12:18-20** But in fact, **God has arranged the members** of the body, every one of them, according to His design. **19**If they were all one part, where would the body be? **20**As it is, there are many parts, but one body

## 4. It helps new pastors know your shepherding needs.

**1 Peter 5:1-3** Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **2** **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; **3** nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. **4** And when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, **you will receive the unfading crown of glory**. -

## 5. It promotes the 'ministry and message of reconciliation'.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**: **19** that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us **the message of reconciliation**.

*"The way you leave one assignment/season/church will determine how you enter the next."*

- Tony Herring

## 6. It protects the church from wolves and unhealthy sheep

Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29, Psalm 23, Jude 1:3-4, 16

*\*We recommend some form of affirmation from your previous church leadership as to the nature of your relationship with that congregation so we have a better understanding of your needs as you connect with SomaChurch. If you would like help on how to best go about that, please speak with Pastor Tony.*



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Section Two

# 2

# WHAT WE BELIEVE



**In this section, we will cover:**

**Statement of Faith**

*What We Believe*

**Healthy Church Government**

*Church Government & The Role of Women in Ministry*

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

**The Trinity** - God is both One and Triune. The Biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God and that He is eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**God the Father** - God the Father is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He created the universe in love. He created man in His own image for fellowship and called man back to Himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man.

**The Son** - Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary; henceforth, He is forever one Christ with two natures—God and man—in one person.

**The Holy Spirit** - The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**The Scriptures** - We believe that the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is the inspired, infallible Word of God and that its authority is ultimate, final and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct.

**The Atonement** - Christ's death on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, but its benefits are only applicable to those who believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Healing—body, soul and spirit—and all of God's provisions for His saints, are provided for in the atonement, but these must be appropriated.

**Salvation** - Salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is affected by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus (justification) and personal acceptance of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior (regeneration). The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind and should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

**The Christian Life** - We believe that God's divine power has given us everything that we need to live a life of Godliness and that through daily surrender to the Holy Spirit we will be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

**Marriage** – We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman.

**Human Life** – We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

**The Church** - The role of the Church is to encourage the saints, equip them for the works of the ministry, and to release them to minister to those inside and outside of the Church. A healthy church is one that operates under biblical authority. SomaChurch is Elder Governed, Pastor Led, Staff Ran and Church owned. It is essential to the life of the Church that scriptural patterns of discipline are practiced and that oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the leadership of the Church.

**Baptism and the Lord's Supper** - The Word of God places on the church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first, baptism, is the outward sign of what God has already done in the individual's life and is a testimony to all that the person now belongs to Jesus. It is identification with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the death of the Lord and is done in remembrance of Him until He comes again; it is a sign of our loving participation in Him. Both institutions are restricted to those who are believers.

**Eschatology** - We affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the saints, the millennium and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both the saints and the unbelievers, determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ.

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The church is the hope of the world, because it brings the truth of God to bear on the needs of society and individuals as it reaches out in ministry. In order for the church to have its most powerful impact, it must have a working structure of government. No church will grow larger in terms of the number of its members or the scope of its ministry than its government will allow. **No church will achieve its full impact of ministry without an effective structure of organization and government. When a church chooses its government, it molds, shapes and casts its destiny.**

Church government is the channel from which **vision flows** for the work of God's kingdom. The church is the manifold expression of its members, and **destiny forms** for the individuals serving in His work through effective and efficient structure for governance and ministry.

**There are promised results for those relating to the church in a healthy way.**

1. A place to find Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness

**Galatians 2:6–10** *But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and **Barnabas the right hand of fellowship**, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.*

2. A place to be Planted, Fruitful and Flourishing

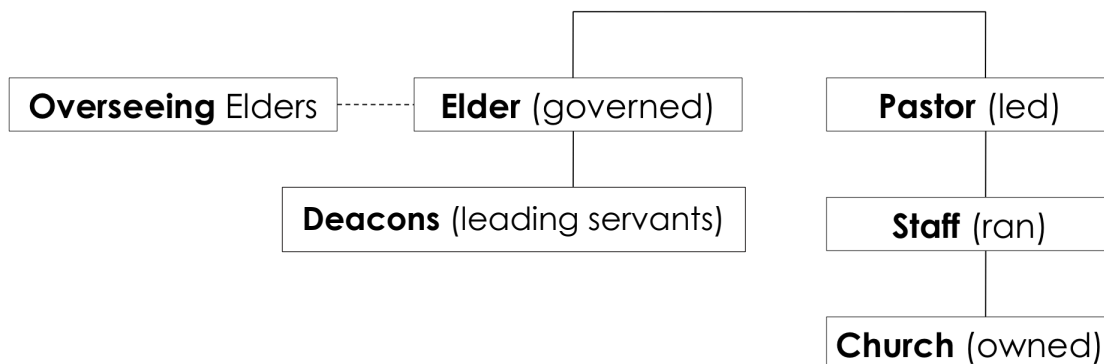
**Psalms 92:13–15** *Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. **They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing**, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*

3. A place of Service, Ministry and Connection

**2 Corinthians 8:1–7** *Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive **the gift and the fellowship** of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.*

## OUR GOVERNMENT

At SomaChurch, we like to say we're  
**Elder governed, Pastor led, Staff & Volunteer ran & Church owned.**



Learn more about the Roles of  
Elders & Deacons at  
SomaChurch.

# THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## Introduction

SomaChurch strongly believes in recognizing and supporting the contribution of women in the ministry of the church. We believe in the value of women in all aspects of ministry with the exception of those areas that exercise governmental authority within the church. Furthermore, we believe God has ordained the family unit to serve as a model for the entire church with the father as the head of the home and functioning as a servant-leader as described in Ephesians 5. We therefore believe that both men and women can reach their fullest potential in ministry within the structure of the biblical family model. We believe a woman can teach and lead within any of the vast array of ministry roles and positions as long as she demonstrates a biblically-qualifying lifestyle. She must also submit herself, along with other servant-leaders, to those leaders God has placed in positions of governing authority, specifically, the Lead Pastor or the Elders of the church. We believe that the positions of Lead Pastor and Elder are (because of their governmental responsibility) reserved only for men. With the exception of these two positions, we consider all ministry positions and opportunities to be open to women.

## Equality of Men and Women

The Bible clearly reveals that God is not a respecter of persons (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34; Ephesians 6:9). At SomaChurch, we ascribe to a belief in the equality of all men and women. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled both men and women alike without concern for gender (Acts 2:1–21). Both women and men are called to faithful service and good stewardship of all that God provides. We discover throughout the New Testament that both genders participated in a full variety of Christian service including prophecy, leadership and teaching (Acts 2:15–18; Acts 18:26; Acts 21:9; Romans 16:7; 1 Corinthians 11:5).

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

One of the most quoted prophetic declarations is found in the book of Joel where the prophet writes that God will pour out His spirit “upon all flesh; and ... your daughters shall prophesy ... and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit” (Joel 2:28–29; see also Acts 2:17). Ministry in the New Testament is defined within Spirit-empowered expressions of God’s wonderful gifts. Nowhere in the writings of the New Testament do we find conditions or exceptions placed on the distribution of spiritual gifts along gender lines. Thus, while some gifts are a spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit and others are recognized ministry gifts to the Church, all gifts are given by God for His greater purpose and without regard to social, economic or gender demarcation (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, 27–28; Ephesians 4:7–12; 1 Peter 4:10–11). We conclude, therefore, that women can serve in vital roles in ministry and this position is further illustrated in the apostle Paul’s many references to women serving with him in ministry throughout the church.

## Controversial Texts Concerning Women in Ministry

There are two often-quoted passages within the Pauline writings that have caused heated debate over many generations on the topic of women in ministry.

### 1 Corinthians 14:34–35

In the first passage Paul writes to the church at Corinth, “Let your women keep silent in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak ...” (1 Corinthians 14:34–35, KJV). Unfortunately, this passage has mistakenly been cited to justify a position that rejects the biblical role of women in ministry. Actually, when understood within the context of Paul’s complete letter to a very troubled church, we gain a more informed perspective. Given that earlier in his letter Paul gave instructions regarding how women should



pray and prophesy in public (1 Corinthians 11:5), it can be assumed that Paul must have meant something other than absolute prohibition for women in the public arena of ministry. Such an interpretation would simply fail to coincide with countless other Pauline writings that affirm the ministry contribution made by women. Therefore, we conclude that within the context of the situation at Corinth that prompted the letter to be written originally, Paul's admonition here is in reference to excessive disruptions and disorder taking place. Therefore this passage, like the rest of the chapter, is an attempt to bring correction to the chaos and to affirm that "all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

### **1 Timothy 2:11–15**

Another challenging passage centers on Paul's instructions to his young apprentice, Timothy, when he writes, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man ..." (1 Timothy 2:12). This passage has troubled biblical scholars and church leaders for centuries. Was Paul offering some kind of transcultural mandate, or was he instead seeking to provide Timothy with spiritual counsel concerning the improper conduct occurring among some women in Ephesus (1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Timothy 5:13; 2 Timothy 3:6)? A review of the entire text of Paul's letter gives a strong indication that he was offering advice to Timothy on how to confront the heretical teaching and misconduct occurring among a number of women within the church. To view this passage in any other context would require denying the legitimacy of Paul's other references to the work and ministry of women within the various churches of his day. Such a perceived contradiction is inconsistent with the proven principles of biblical interpretation.

## **Biblical Examples of Women in Ministry**

While the debate over the role of women in church ministry predominantly centers around the interpretation of two challenging New Testament passages (1 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:12), a fair and thorough review of biblical records reveals explicit and overwhelming evidence to support Soma's stated position affirming the role of women in ministry. In the Old Testament, for instance, Miriam was used of God as a prophet during the time of the great exodus (Exodus 15:20). As both a prophet and a judge, Deborah was an instrumental leader in guiding God's army (Judges 4–5). And Huldah, another prophet, was a vital contributor to the powerful religious reform under King Josiah (2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34). The New Testament also reveals the essential role women shared in the ministry of the early church. Contrary to the cultural norm of that time regarding the status of women in society, the apostle Paul frequently refers to the contribution made by women. For instance, Paul speaks of women who "worked hard with him" in the work of the gospel (Romans 16:6, 12; Philippians 4:3). At Philippi, Euodias and Syntyche were described as "fellow-workers" alongside Paul. This description is the same wording used to also describe other young ministers who served with Paul such as Timothy, Epaphroditus, Titus and Luke. Furthermore, as a servant (diakonos) at the church in Cenchrea (Romans 16:1–2), Phoebe was obviously viewed as more than simply a helper. In fact, Paul uses the same word (diakonos) to refer to other ministers and leaders in a congregation, including himself. From these and many other writings, we discover that Paul was an advocate of women in ministry. And contrary to the social order of the day, he frequently recognized the Spirit-inspired work that many women shared as fellow-laborers. We can conclude, therefore, that Scriptural evidence affirms the call of women to spiritual leadership and vital ministry roles in the early church. Such divine acknowledgement provides us with the irrefutable evidence we need to believe that God continues to call women to serve alongside men in the vital work of ministry today.

## **Conclusion**

We believe that this equality of men and women represents the heart of God and the revelation of Scripture. While recognizing that certain governmental roles in the church do have some gender distinctiveness within the community of faith as it is true within the biblical construct of the home, we do affirm the tremendous contribution women have made in the early days of the church and must continue to make as we move forward in the ministry of SomaChurch. The Spirit of God is being poured out on all flesh and we seek to walk in step with the Holy Spirit in power and practice until Christ returns.

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Section Three

3

# HOW WE LIVE



**In this section, we will cover:**

**Covenant Walk**

*The Covenant, Commitment and Culture of SomaChurch*

**Next Steps**

*Equip Classes, Groups & Community*

# COVENANT WALK

Scan QR Code for Full  
Teaching on Abraham



The **Abrahamic** Covenant was like God pushing “go” on His plan of redemption.

**Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

**Messianic** Prophecy – Old Testament Scriptures that foretell the person and work of Christ.

**Genesis 17:7** "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

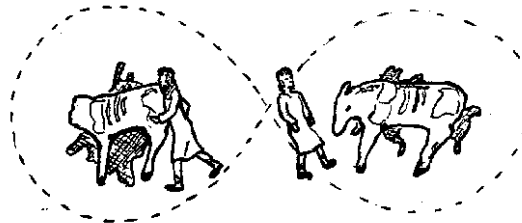
Covenant means “A coming Together”

**English** – “Let's make a covenant.”

**Hebrew** – “Let's ‘cut’ a covenant.”

Cut The **Covenant**. Walk the pieces.

**Genesis 15:7** 8 He said, “O Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it?” (*how can I believe you?*) 9 So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.



Life and circumstances may separate us, but we will always **come together** again.

Covenant Speaks of Love **Unconditional**. How can mortal man ever walk that out?

**Genesis 15:12-16** Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16 Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

\*\* **17** It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.

Smoking oven?

**Hebrews 12:29** for our "God is a consuming fire."

Flaming Torch?

**2 Thessalonians 1:7** "...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

**Matthew 3:11** He (*Jesus*) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**John 8:12** "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram,..."

God made the covenant with Abraham, but walked the pieces with **His Son**.

## The Sign of the Covenant

**Genesis 17:9-11** God said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. **10** This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. **11** And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

The way other nations knew a man was an Israelite was by the **cutting** of their flesh.

### Mosaic Covenant

- **Flesh**
- **Life**
- **Death**

**John 6:63**

**John 1:17**

**Romans 8:6**

### New Covenant

- **Spirit**
- **Grace**
- **Life**

**John 13:34-35**... "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Luke 22:20** And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit (*evidence/sign*) of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Jesus did not come to get rid of the cup. He came to **fill it up**.

**Romans 8:6-11** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**Acts 13:52** And the disciples were **continually filled** with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled (*continually*) with the Spirit,

We are powerless to walk out this New Covenant of grace without the **Holy Spirit**.

We understand what Jesus Christ has accomplished through His death, burial, resurrection and ascension into Heaven and that His motivation was His love for the Father and His love for US.

**1 John 4:10** In this is love, not that we **loved** God, but that He **loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so **loved us**, we also ought to love one another. We love, because He **first loved us**.

**1 John 4:21** And this **commandment** we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

A great starting point for walking out the New Covenant is loving **God** and loving **others**.

**Luke 10:27** And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

**John 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

## What does love look like?

### LOVE

- is patient · is kind · is not jealous · does not brag · is not arrogant · is not rude
- does not seek its own · is not easily angered · keeps no record of wrong
- does not delight in unrighteousness · rejoices with the truth
- bears all things · believes all things · hopes all things · endures all things · never fails

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

## Covenant = Commitment

- **Commitment is a lost art**
  - As long as I am interested.
  - As long as I am compensated.
- **Our culture is fast paced and ever changing**
  - Kills our ability to appreciate.
  - Kills our ability to engage with any sense of longevity in mind.
  - Breeds within us a "lust" for more.

When applied to the Church.

### Produces a consumer mentality

- Centered around a building and/or a service
  - Lights, camera, action
  - Amazing Music
  - Polished preaching

We are shopping for everything except great people.

- We leave when we are bored or unsatisfied
- We leave when offended
  - Faced with Truth
  - Faced with Humanity
  - We go unchanged for a lack of Godly motive

### Produces the employee mentality

- Pastor only looks for "*most gifted*" rather than "*most Godly*"
- Talented people are conditioned to "*be paid*" to serve
- Others are left feeling untalented, un-chosen and unworthy to serve at all.

### Produces the "Move On" mentality

- People tend to hop around from church to church blaming:
  - Lack of Vision
  - Lack of Teaching
  - Lack of community
  - Lack of programs
  - Loud Music
  - Various other "*God said...*" scenarios

We must be a church committed to God and people and not preference.



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# MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

## What you can expect from the Elders, Leaders and Members of SomaChurch.

- To **pray** for you weekly.
- To provide **authentic atmospheres** where you can connect with God in worship.
- To provide solid biblical **instruction**.
- To hold you **accountable** to a life lived worthy of the Gospel.
- To **encourage** you in your faith walk every way we can.
- To **equip** you for the works of the ministry as best as we can.
- To **empower** you to step out in your gifts and callings and impact the world around you.
- To **rejoice** when you rejoice and **mourn** when you mourn.

## What The Elders, Leaders and Members of SomaChurch can expect from you.

- To "**Be Here**" in our weekend services and special events as much as your schedule will allow.
- To "**Live Here**" attend groups, studies, or getting involved in other life-giving opportunities.
- To "**Serve Here**" in ways that help our body flourish and effectively reach the un-churched.
- To "**Give Here**" by joyfully tithing 10% and participating in other freewill offering opportunities.

We believe that "*actions speak louder than words*". Those who believe in Soma's Vision and Values, align with our Statement of Faith and feel that God has led them to become actively involved with church family may simply communicate this to our Elders and begin '*helping people live the life of Jesus Christ*' as a "**Covenant Member**". If you ever sense that the season of serving God with SomaChurch may be coming to an end, we ask that you include our Elders and any of your direct Leaders in the prayer and process of discernment.

# NEXT STEPS

SomaChurch exists to help people **Choose the Way, Know the Truth and Live the Life of Jesus Christ**. When you become a Covenant Member of SomaChurch, we begin walking together in this shared vision. We believe that the very best way for you personally to walk out this vision is to **“Be Here, Live Here, Serve Here and Give Here.”** We want to partner with you in your discipleship journey. You might be wondering, “what are my next steps?”

**We encourage people to dive into Equip Classes, find a Group and join a Serve Team.**

## Equip Classes at SomaChurch

The Equip Classes at SomaChurch are designed as a **discipleship tool** to **equip** you as you **grow** in your **faith**, your **leadership** and your **impact** for God's Kingdom. We have a library full of Equip Classes for you to view at any time on the Church Center App. Each Equip Class includes multiple sessions covering very specific topics that will help you **grow deeper** in your **faith** and **knowledge** of **God**. Our Equip Classes have been designed so that you can complete this video-based training either **on your own** or **with others in a group** study format.

We ask each Covenant Member of SomaChurch to **complete FREEDOM and DISCIPLESHIP 101** either in a LIVE group study or on your own via video.

The **best next step** upon completing Physiology is to **complete** these two Equip Classes as you get further plugged in to life and ministry at SomaChurch.

Please visit [www.somatyler.org/equip](http://www.somatyler.org/equip) or the ChurchCenter App for more information!

## LifeGroups at SomaChurch

No matter what kind of group you're looking for or what stage of life you're in, we want you to be in community with people who will **encourage** you, help you **grow**, and have **fun** together! We have a shared value of permeating relationships. LifeGroups are a great place to get started.

We were created to live in community with others, functioning in a way that produces **life**. We desire to relationally and intentionally equip people to **build** God's Kingdom and to love others intentionally as **ministers** in the Body of Christ.

A key way that we do this at SomaChurch is through **LifeGroups**.

We encourage every Covenant Member of Soma to be in a LifeGroup. This is one of the best ways to **find your people, build community and receive care**.

**For more information on groups visit [www.somatyler.org/groups](http://www.somatyler.org/groups).**

Section Four

4

# HOW WE SERVE



**In this section, we will cover:**

**Discover You**

*Personality, Spiritual Gifts & Passions*

**Why We Serve**

*Join a Pulse Team - Everyone Working Together as One*

# DISCOVER YOU

Discover You is designed to help you explore the passions, gifts, and strengths that give unique value to you as a member of the Body of Christ. Uncover who God "fearfully and wonderfully" created you to be and discover the perfect place for you to serve this community.

## Discover You Questionnaire

The **DISCOVER YOU QUESTIONNAIRE** is part of becoming a Covenant Member of SomaChurch. If you have not already **completed** this **questionnaire**, **please do so as soon as possible**. Inside the questionnaire you'll fill out some general contact info, complete a Discipleship Assessment, and answer questions about your passions, personality and more.



Part of **DISCOVER YOU** involves personality and spiritual gifts tests that can be accessed inside of the questionnaire or separately using the QR codes below.

## Personality Test

If you've never taken the Meyers Briggs' 16-personalities test, or you'd like to take it again, you can do so here:

### Why it matters

Though we are all "wired" differently, we are called to reflect the character of Jesus Christ. We believe that our personalities will be "tempered" as we surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**Psalm 139, 2Co 3:18, Col 3:10**

Taking a personality test will not define you, but it can give you a reference point as you move forward in living a life worthy of the calling.



## Spiritual Gifts Test

If you've never taken a spiritual gifts test, you can take a great one here:

### Why it matters

We believe that everyone who has been born again of the Spirit has been given at least one "spiritual" gift. Much like all parts of a body works together as a unit, so spiritual gifts are given uniquely to individuals who are a part of the "body" of Christ for the purpose of working together as one. Spiritual gifts are not to be used for personal gain but rather to spread the gospel message and to encourage and equip the saints for effective service. **Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12**



Taking a Spiritual Gifts test can be difficult because many of the questions are based upon wonderful characteristics and deeds, all of which you would love to possess. The best way to take a spiritual gifts test is to be honest about who you are and your natural inclinations (or lack thereof) toward the specified question. Remember that you have been given gifts by the Holy Spirit and He makes no mistakes!

# WHY WE SERVE

Jesus said, “The Son of man came not to be served but to serve...” (Matt. 20:28), and He calls us to do the same. As Christians, our vitality is shown by our desire to serve one another. Pulse Teams are our various teams and areas of engagement where you can get plugged in and begin serving the Body. **Volunteering in one of Soma’s Pulse Teams is a great way to serve the Body of Christ and build relationships with those you serve with.**

Soma has always enjoyed an “Everyone working together as one!” style of ministry. You may recall from our Church Government section that we are “staff” ran and “church owned.” Because we all own the “discipleship” here at Soma, our staff and volunteers work hand in hand to provide consistent and effective ministry. The selfless gifts of your time, talent and giftings are what make SomaChurch a safe place for people to grow in their faith!

**We also believe in Sabbath and work hard to promote and a cultural of rest.** “Everyone working together as one” only works when no one feels worn out! We understand that overextending your already busy schedule would hinder your personal spiritual growth and negatively impact ministry for Soma. This is why our Staff works carefully in scheduling volunteers as you prayerfully consider areas of ministry that match your time, talents and giftings with our needs. You might love the opportunity to join the Worship team but then learn that our Kid’s ministry could use a few extra volunteers. Or perhaps you love serving in Youth, but we could use the help on our Hospitality team. Please be prayerful in where God would have you serve.

Speaking of no one feeling worn out! **SomaChurch is a family with a lot of kids.** At any given service, roughly 1/3 of people on campus are 10 years old and younger. This, of course, is a blessing, but also requires us to be strategic! **We have found that when parents from every family with children in SomaKids (babies through 4th grade) commits to serve on rotation, everyone feels rested and able to consistently enjoy all other aspects of community and spiritual growth at Soma.** What does this mean practically? Once you have turned in your SomaKids Team Application and your Background Check clears, one of our Kids Directors will contact you about how and when to best serve on our 4-6-week rotation. Many people hate to miss a service and have chosen to SERVE ONE and ATTEND ONE. This is not required or expected but has proven to be a positive way to “work together as one” and own the discipleship of our kids at SomaChurch.



# PULSE TEAMS

Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..." (Matt. 20:28), and He calls us to do the same. As Christians, our vitality is shown by our willingness to serve one another. Volunteering in one of Soma's Pulse Teams is one way to serve the Body of Christ in the context of the local church. You can find a list and description of all of our current Pulse Teams below. As discussed in our Membership Covenant, we ask each Covenant Member to serve on one of the SomaChurch Pulse Teams.

**ServicePrep** Preparation communicates to people that you care. Our Service Prep Team works hard to have our facility ready to worship God and experience life giving community every weekend.

**SomaHospitality** Community begins with connecting. Our Hospitality Team plays a vital part of helping people feel loved and accepted by our church family.  
(Includes Hosts, Greeters & Ushers)

**SomaWorship & Production** Our Worship Teams work together to provide exciting atmospheres where people can have genuine encounters with God that produce life-changing results. You can also join our Production Team (Sound and/or Media (A/V)). This crew works behind the scenes to make sure production elements of the Weekend Services run with excellence.

**SomaKids** Every kid is special and has been called by God to accomplish great things for His Kingdom. It is our privilege to partner with parents to raise up young passionate disciples of Jesus. We have three different age ranges to serve – Littles (Babies to PreK), K-1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>).

**FSM (Fifth/Sixth Grade Ministry)** Leaders in FSM have the privilege of pouring into the next generation of influencers and disciples of Jesus Christ through weekly gatherings centered on teaching the Bible and living out healthy community.

**SomaYouth** We believe that God will use this generation of students in a way that surpasses every other generation in history so we are committed to giving them everything we've got!

**SomaWatch** Church should always be a safe place. Our Security Team gives their attention to protecting the property from anything that would threaten danger to our congregation.

**Group Leaders** Life is best lived alongside others. Every Leader is passionate about connecting people and helping them grow in their walks with God. Group leaders lead Soma's Connect, Grow and Care Groups.

Visit [www.somatyler.org/pulse](http://www.somatyler.org/pulse) to complete an application to join one of these teams.

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