



SOMA ADOPTION PROCESS

PRE-ADOPTION | SOMA SCHOOL

At least one elder and wife from your church must participate in Soma School. It is ideal for multiple leaders/couples from your church to do so. This multi-day training is a hands-on ecclesiology immersion, and is a foundational starting point for this adoption process.

PHASE 1 | GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

As a family of churches, relationships with one another are vital. We work together to plant churches, ensure leader and church health, and share our strengths with each other - so relationships are vital. So the first steps of the process are for your church leaders and Soma area leaders to meet.

- Familiarize your church's leadership on three documents. 1) this document outlining the adoption process, 2) The 15 Marks of a Strong Soma Church, and 3) What it Means to Be Soma.
- Express your church leadership's desire for adoption to an existing Soma leader and pursue them as a sponsor church. Adoption churches require a Soma church in your area with whom you have a relationship to affirm your church's pursuit of the Soma Family and alignment with its distinctives. They will walk alongside you during the adoption process.
- Set up a "getting to know you" call with. 1) your Soma sponsor church's leader(s), 2) at least one member of your Soma area leadership team, and 3) all of your church's elders.

PHASE 2 | ADOPTION COACHING

Once your church's elders and Soma leaders are aligned around the documents, expectations, and process, the next step is Adoption Coaching. The unified content, church discussion, and a personalized coach (often your Soma sponsor and/or an Area leader) will serve you and your church well.

- There is a fee (\$500 US) to receive access to Adoption Coaching Courses, payable at saturatetheworld.com.

- Once you've begun Adoption Coaching, you're invited to join in Family events like the Soma Family Retreat, area events and calls, Strong Leader cohorts, etc.

- You can complete coaching as fast as you, your elders, and your coach's time allows you to thoroughly complete the following for each of Soma's 15 Strong Church marks.

1. Have each elder watch the video training for each Strong Church mark.
2. Discuss the video and corresponding questions with your elders.
3. Each elder submits separate written/audio/video responses to questions.
4. Discuss the Strong Church Mark and your team's responses with your coach.
5. Receive verbal and written feedback from your coach, including areas of strength and areas of growth related to that mark. No church or team is strong in all 15 marks, so you should expect to slow down at various points in the process to work on areas of growth with your coach.

- After you complete the first eight marks, your elder team will do a "midpoint check-in" with your coach, sponsor church, and Soma area team member. You'll review the process so far, discuss your church's strengths and growth areas, will answer questions and clarify where needed, etc. This is also an opportunity to ensure unity around continuing the process.

- Once your church's elders and Soma leaders are aligned, complete the final seven marks.

PHASE 3 | ADOPTION ON-SITE WEEKEND

Once you complete the coaching process for all 15 Strong Church marks, your church will enter the final phase of the Adoption Process. This includes both a summary of coaching and an on-site weekend of your church's strengths, areas of growth, and readiness.

- After you complete all 15 marks, your coach will review strengths & needs discussed throughout the process, get updates, & make further recommendations. The goal is to serve you and ensure your readiness to enter the Soma family, so this may be one or multiple discussions. Your elders and other Soma area leaders may be involved.

- Once any concerns are sufficiently addressed, 3-4 members of your Soma Area team will spend 2-3 days with you and your church family.

1. This team will most likely include your. a) sponsor, b) coach, and c) area team member, including at least one woman.
2. We ask that your church covers the cost of the team's travel (usually gas), lodging (in homes with church members is fine), food, etc. (If you cannot cover

this, please let your coach know in advance so we can make alternative arrangements.)

3. The team meets with elders, MC leaders, staff and/or other leaders, and church members, to get a better feel for who your church family is, to celebrate ways they affirm and embody the marks of a Strong Church, and to understand how you you embody Soma distinctives in your mission field.

- Following the on-site, a Next Steps plan will be developed and discussed which may include further coaching, development, follow-up visits, etc.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Upon the Soma Team's recommendation, your church is adopted into the Soma Family and commissioned into our shared mission, vision, and distinctives at a Family event. Welcome to the family. Soma churches will look forward to pursuing the vision of gospel saturation together with you.