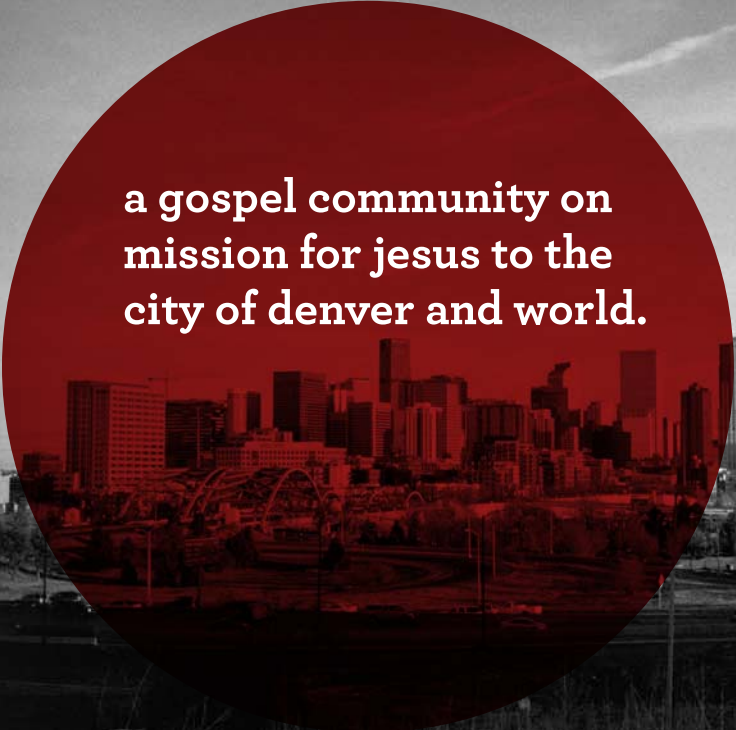


PROSPECTUS & PARTNER PACKET



a gospel community on
mission for jesus to the
city of denver and world.

soma
CHURCH

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We believe that the church faithfully being Jesus' body is the greatest gift we can give to the city of Denver.

“Soma” is the Greek word for “body,” and Scripture describes the church as the body of Christ. As Christ's body, the church is to be the visible manifestation of Christ to the city, as it proclaims the gospel through word, and demonstrates the gospel's implications through deed.

While reaching a city like Denver does present many challenges, we view it largely as a privilege. Recognized by the Pew Research Center in 2008 as the “Best City to Call Home,” Denver has long been revered as the perfect place to live, learn, work and play. Mixing an urban sophistication, educated population, and dynamic culture with an adventurous outdoors, sunny climate, and affordable living provides just a glimpse into why Denver attracts individuals and families from all over the globe.

Many would argue that if the church is going to survive in a city like Denver, it must move beyond “old” methods and instead depend upon programs that compete with the city's many attractions. We've come to the opposite conclusion, recognizing that while it may be difficult to “compete” with the short drive to the Rocky Mountains or the Broncos' games right downtown, what people are actually yearning for is true gospel community. Denver does not push us beyond the gospel but rather drives us back to the gospel, requiring us to be the genuine body of Christ for the city.

Therefore, we come to Denver unapologetically as Christ's soma: a gospel-centered community on mission for Jesus to the city of Denver and world.

For the gospel,

Soma Church
Denver, Colorado

WHO WE ARE

LEADERSHIP



LEAD PLANTER - BRYAN & MEGAN BARLEY

Bryan grew up in Richmond, VA. After high school, he attended the University of South Carolina where he earned a degree in history, and more importantly, met his wife, Megan. After getting married in 2007, they moved to Raleigh where Bryan earned his M.Div. from Southeastern Seminary (SEBTS). In preparing to plant, Megan has been working as a Registered Nurse at WakeMed hospital and Bryan is on staff at The Summit Church in Durham, NC. (bryan@somadenver.org)



ANDY METZGER

Andy is an East Tennessee native and also graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2007 with a degree in Marketing and Management. He earned his M.Div. from SEBTS in 2010, and has a deep love for making music and riding motorcycles.

TEAM



ALEX AND KRISTEL ACEVEDO

The Acevedos are native Miamians who have been married since May 2008. Alex works for Apple, does freelance graphic design, and helps lead music at The Summit Church where the Acevedos are members. Kristel is a graduate of Florida International University, has a M.A. in Biblical Counseling at SEBTS, and loves photography.



JOSH AND LIZ BRYANT

Josh is a Southern California native, but headed east to complete his radiology training at Duke University. While in North Carolina, he met his wife, Liz, who is a North Carolina native and completed undergrad and law school at UNC Chapel Hill. They just had their first child, Asher Isaiah, in May and a month later moved to Denver. Josh joined a radiology private practice in Denver where he will be practicing interventional and diagnostic radiology.



DREW WITT

Originally from Columbia, SC and a graduate of Clemson University, Drew is finishing his M.Div. at SEBTS. He works as a wall and trim artist, loves climbing, and Clemson football. He is a member of The Summit Church and enjoys spending time with college students.



WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

VALUES

GOSPEL

Our foundation is the gospel - it is the principle doctrine of the faith that both reconciles us to God and helps us to grow in our relationship with Him. The gospel shapes and drives all that we do.

COMMUNITY

The gospel creates true community - we are committed to sharing life with one another, as we challenge each other to grow in Christ.

MISSION

Our community is missional - we exist not for ourselves but for God's glory and the joy of others. We strive to be a community of missionaries that reaches our city and world with the gospel.

VISION

Because of these values our vision is to be a community of Jesus-followers who very practically:

LOVE GOD, understanding His mission that is told within the Bible as being the lens through which we understand our own mission. The gospel of Jesus Christ shapes and drives all that we do.

LOVE IN COMMUNITY, as we are committed to sharing life with one another both in normal activities such as eating meals or discussing struggles, as well as challenging one another to grow in Christ.

LOVE OUR CITY & WORLD, as we recognize that our community does not exist for itself but rather for those outside of it. We love to speak the gospel and live out its implications, being a blessing to Denver by demonstrating the love of Jesus in real and practical ways.



WHY DENVER?

When we answer the question, “Why Denver?” we like to think about three categories: need, influence, and community.

NEED

The population of the Denver Metro Area has steadily grown to reach a record high of 2.8 million residents. Studies show that 93-97% of these Denver residents are unchurched. As Denver continues to grow—as people continue to come—we believe the *need* for gospel-centered churches rises tremendously.



INFLUENCE

Denver is a city that influences the world. Urban centers continue to be the primary location where culture develops. To evangelize the entire world, then, we see Denver as the strategic starting point and launching pad of our mission. Denver boasts amazing qualities such as being home to over 140,000 college students, seventy-five nationalities and languages, and leading research in renewable energy and “green-friendly” practices. The city is filled with people who can impact the nation and world.



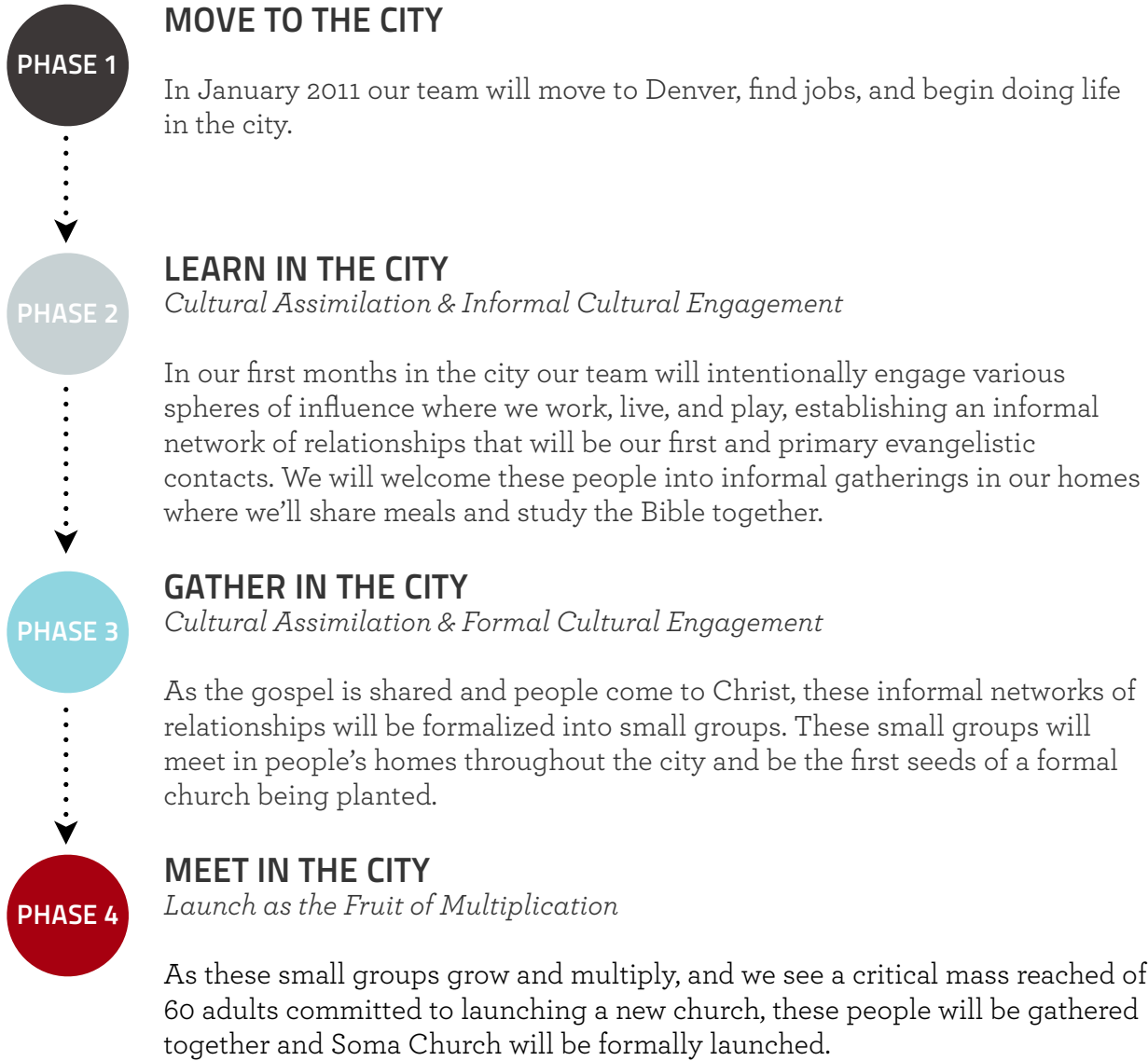
COMMUNITY

Tim Keller, a pastor in New York City, says that the best way for Christians to reach the cities with the gospel is for Christians to plant their lives in the city for multiple generations. We feel that Denver is a city where “urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure.” This unique culture excites us to plant our lives in the city with the intention of planting God’s church. We desire to give ourselves to Denver for multiple generations in the hope of seeing a movement of God.



GETTING TO LAUNCH

When we consider moving towards launching Soma Church in the city, we think of a four-phase methodology:



OUR VISION FOR PARTNERING

Our vision is to find partners that look at Soma Church as an investment rather than a charity. We believe that partnering provides churches and individuals an opportunity to tangibly invest in the mission of God by devoting money, time, and prayer to the front lines of the mission. This provides tremendous opportunity to have a first-hand experience in owning urban church planting, giving to a cause larger than one's self, and rallying behind what God is doing in an influential city of great need.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER

INVEST

We ask you to invest in the mission of God to see the Gospel take root in Denver. Practically, we need support to:

- Help us **LIVE** in the City (Personnel) - Estimated Total: **\$61,000**
- Help us **MEET** in the City (Operating) - Estimated Total: **\$38,500**
- Help us **GO** to the City and World (Missions) - Estimated Total: **\$11,750**

YEAR ONE TOTAL: \$111,250

PRAY

We need you to pray for us—without God's blessing and establishment, our work will not succeed. We believe that God is able to do all things, and therefore hope you join us in asking Him for the gospel to take root and grow in Denver through our local church.

GO

We are looking for people to not only invest prayers and money, but also their lives. There is no substitute for experiencing the mission of God from the front lines. From taking short term mission trips to relocating to the city permanently, we want to see men and women give themselves to the mission of God through Soma Church.

To learn more about partnering with Soma Church, e-mail partner@somadenver.org.

APPENDIX: WHY PLANT CHURCHES? ¹

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else--not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes--will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.

TWO IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TRUTHS:

1. Jesus' essential call was to plant churches. Virtually all the great evangelistic challenges of the New Testament are basically calls to plant churches, not simply to share the faith. The 'Great Commission' (Matt.28: 18-20) is not just a call to 'make disciples' but to 'baptize'. In Acts and elsewhere, it is clear that baptism means incorporation into a worshipping community with accountability and boundaries (cf. Acts 2:41-47). The only way to be truly sure you are increasing the number of Christians in a town is to increase the number of churches. Why? Much traditional evangelism aims to get a 'decision' for Christ. Experience, however, shows us that many of these 'decisions' disappear and never result in changed lives. Why? Many, many decisions are not really conversions, but often only the beginning of a journey of seeking God. (Other decisions are very definitely the moment of a 'new birth', but this differs from person to person.) Only a person who is being 'evangelized' in the context of an on-going worshipping and shepherding community can be sure of finally coming home into vital, saving faith. This is why a leading missiologist like C.Peter Wagner can say, "*Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.*"

2. Paul's whole strategy was to plant urban churches. The greatest missionary in history, St.Paul, had a rather simple, two-fold strategy. First, he went into the largest city of the region (cf. Acts 16:9,12), and second, he planted churches in each city (cf. Titus 1:5-11 "*appoint elders in every town*"). Once Paul had done that, he could say that he had '*fully preached*' the gospel in a region and that he had '*no more work*' to do there (cf. Romans 15:19,23). This means Paul had two controlling assumptions: a) that the way to most permanently influence a country was through its chief cities, and b) the way to most permanently influence a city was to plant churches in it. Once he had accomplished this in a city, he moved on. He knew that the rest that needed to happen would follow.

¹Excerpted from Timothy Keller, "Why Plant Churches?", http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf

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