



Why is Renewal joining a network?

Over the past several years, the elders have been researching various networks for Renewal to join. We feel it is important to connect with a family of churches locally and globally that share our passion to know Jesus and make him known in the earth.

Why SOMA?

The elders researched affiliation with several networks and even some denominations over the last decade. However, there was always something that compromised our values or mission. Several of our elders were introduced to SOMA in 2009 and since this time, our brotherhood and shared methodologies in mission and message became quite apparent that our effectiveness for kingdom advancement was better together.

What does SOMA believe in?

<https://wearesoma.com/what-we-believe/>

Are there any other SOMA churches?

Yes, as a matter of fact, there are two local churches that we're growing in relationship with. The Refuge in Arlington and Mercy Hill in Memphis. In addition to these churches, we've had several of the elders from The Crossing in Paragould, AK speak at Renewal including Chuck Gschwend. A full list of national and international churches can be found [here](#).

What are the financial implications?

SOMA does not require their churches to give a certain percentage to the network. They encourage however elders to designate 10% of their annual budget to church planting. Renewal's current model of gospel community planting falls into this category of which we already exceed the 10% suggestion.

Are there any ministry implications?

None from a negative perspective. Our affiliation is a gospel partnership with like minded churches that share our heart to see wider influence for training and mission locally and globally, and resources for the care of our elders and leaders. It also gives our church the opportunity to exercise our gifts in a larger context for the betterment of kingdom advancement.

Do we maintain our autonomy?

Yes. The SOMA entity does not have any authority to direct our elders in how we conduct ministry, our finances or the acquisition/ownership of future property. We maintain our independence but also appreciate their wise counsel and oversight.