

## **Introduction**

Over the last year the Trustees have worked with the National Director to develop a sense of direction for the period 2022-25. This process has been informed by two documents from Richard, namely *'Where are we at?'* which we discussed at our residential in May 2022 and *'Where are we going?'* which we first discussed in our follow-up meeting to the residential in July 2022.

A paper from the chair summarising progress to-date was discussed at the Trustees residential meeting in May 2023, at which point our deliberations were further shaped by proposals coming out of the International Forum of SOMA National Directors held in April 2023 in Kigali and presented to Trustees in two papers entitled *'Enlarge our Tent'* and *'Pegging out the Tent'*.

This document records the Trustees' agreed statements in relation to the identity of SOMA UK, our God-given purpose, our undergirding values and our emerging sense of vision for the period 2022-26. The document also records the Core Beliefs of SOMA International, to which we subscribe. The statements herein will be used in SOMA UK communications and will be the basis for a Strategic Plan for the period 2023-26.

## **Identity: who we are**

Our identity is rooted in our calling and in our history. We are an independent charity; called by God and rooted in the Bible and the historic creeds; a primarily Anglican mission agency; a constituent part of SOMA International; and an associate member of the Partnership for World Mission.

## **Purpose: why we exist**

SOMA UK's charitable purpose is *"the advancement of the Christian religion among people throughout the world by the ministry of evangelism and spiritual renewal and the sharing of God given gifts and spiritual resources"*. Within this broad purpose SOMA UK has a prophetic calling to *"join the Holy Spirit in tending the nervous system of the Body of Christ"*, and to do so with a commitment within the worldwide church to the places least visited. We look to build-up the Body of Jesus Christ and its leaders through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit and to encourage, equip, envision, enable, and empower the church for evangelism and ministry in the power of the Spirit, principally through intercession and by sending short-term, cross-cultural mission teams. We also look to learn and to receive reciprocally from the churches we serve and to carry this back for the enrichment and renewal of churches in the UK.

## **Core Beliefs: what we believe**

SOMA UK subscribes to the SOMA International Core Beliefs, that

- Jesus Christ is the Lord, Redeemer and Saviour of the world.
- The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.
- Intercessory prayer is essential for releasing God's power.
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit renews, heals and transforms lives and churches.
- The Holy Spirit enables repentance and growth in holiness.
- Renewal leads to reconciliation, care and unity in the body.
- Renewal empowers the Church for evangelism and mission.
- Renewal seeks the transformation of communities as a sign of the coming Kingdom of God.
- Giving and receiving across cultures is part of God's precious resource in renewal and mission.
- Effective ministry flows from a servant heart and through loving relationships.

SOMA is an Anglican mission agency that operates in the Anglican world in line with historic teaching on marriage between one man and one woman in accordance with the Bible revelation found in foundational verses such as Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:4-6 and through the faithful witness of Scripture.

## **Values: how we do things**

Our values underpin the way we live and work as a ministry under God and under the gaze of the church and the world. They are the non-negotiable foundations for all that we do. SOMA UK's values have been discerned within a biblical framework. In this regard we commit to being:

**A Spirit-led ministry**, committed to discern and do all that God asks of us

**A faith ministry**, demonstrating a reliance on God in all that we do

**A prayerful ministry**, living from our knees

**A learning ministry**, committed to learn reciprocally alongside the global church

**A prophetic ministry**, that speaks from the edge, amplifying the voices of those on the margins

**A strategic ministry**, that values diversity and lives out its calling in partnership with others

**A safe ministry**, that maintains high and holy standards in all that we do

**A humble ministry**, that serves

## **Vision: where we are heading**

By 2026 SOMA UK will be working as part of SOMA International and with UK and overseas partners to facilitate *SOMA Entry* missions in the UK and an incrementally increasing number of *SOMA Extended* and *SOMA Experienced* missions overseas. We will have integrated *Meta Youth* into our operational life. And all this will be undergirded by a re-launched network of intercessors and enabled by a UK staff team, a National Leadership Team to provide operational and personal support to the National Director and help as national coordinators as well releasing a growing cohort of trained mission team leaders. Through SOMA International we will be assisting in the launch of national SOMAs and developing SOMA's global coverage. And we will have added greater diversity and a wider range of specialisms to the membership of the Board of Trustees.

## **Strategy: how we will get there**

Work on a Strategic Plan for the period 2023-26 will be led by the National Director for discussion and agreement with the Trustees.

## **Conclusion**

The statements in this paper have been agreed by the Trustees of SOMA UK and are authorised for use in the charity's literature and communications.

**Kevin Roberts**

**23 May 2023**