

Missional Community Cohort

Creating and Leading Embedded Communities of Faith and Reconciliation

WHAT IS IT?

The Thresholds Cohort is a 18-month collaborative journey created specifically to provide insight and direction for those who have just launched or who would like to launch a missional community.

WHY ARE WE OFFERING THIS?

The missional community movement is characterized by radical incarnation, deep neighborhood transformation, and the life-giving integration of our lives and faith.

The movement is growing rapidly around the world and more and more people are asking questions and exploring what it might mean in their own lives. But they are often without peers, a learning community, or experienced guides.

At Thresholds, we have been gifted with 13 years of experience creating and leading missional communities and we feel compelled to share that gift. Through experienced facilitators, tested teachings, personal coaching, on-going encouragement, new mental maps, sharpened missional skills and sustained spiritual practices, you will be equipped to create and live out a new way of being Church.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- We will gather five times over 18 months on the ground in a host neighborhood.
- Each gathering will be two and a half days (Thursday evening to Saturday evening)
- At least one gathering per year will be in an off-site context (within the same region) with the other gatherings taking place in the host neighborhood.
- Each gathering will have a unique focus but also re-enforce each of the other essential elements.
- Between each gathering we will offer 1 all-cohort conference call and 1 personal coaching call.
- Cost: \$1,900 (not including travel, lodging, or meals). Participants will be encouraged to contribute one-third of the cost, to ask their faith community to contribute one-third, and to ask someone who believes in them and their vision to contribute.
- There will be readings and assigned tasks between each gathering designed to implement our learnings.
- Cohorts will be limited to 10-15 participants to enhance interaction and learning.

WHY A COHORT?

There are several reasons why we believe this is a transformative approach to forming communities:

- We can't create community alone. We need a community to help us form a community.
- A cohort offers relational continuity, encouragement, and an opportunity to tackle the task holistically.
- The cohort offers targeted instruction that is both affordable and accessible.
- We are inspired and richly informed through books, seminars, and conferences, but most of us need the sustained presence of experienced guides and a learning community to create a clear, comprehensive, actionable pathway forward.

STUDY CONTENT

Each of our five face-to-face gatherings will engage the concepts and practices we've found to be critical in forming and stewarding a missional community. We will engage these topics **academically, conversationally,** and **experientially** in the context of homes and a neighborhood. And we will tackle them in a sequence that addresses the challenges that naturally unfold in this pursuit.

1/Becoming Sacrament

PERSONAL FORMATION FOCUS: Resolve

- Community as a local sacrament - bearing the image of God
- Community as a global grace - living as a reconciled and reconciling reality
- Examining the historical, theological, and contemporary meanings of "missional community"
- Redefining success through kingdom metrics
- Imagining what your community could be if it was shaped by the cross and submitted to the *missio dei*

2/Gathering Sojourners

PERSONAL FORMATION FOCUS: Self Awareness

- Knowing who you are and where you've come from
- Re-orienting your identity and calling
- Discerning who you need to join you
- Overcoming the gravitational pull of institutionalism and our past
- Assimilation principles: pathways to belonging
- Extending a radical invitation to community

3/Life Together

PERSONAL FORMATION FOCUS: Surrender

- Forming a collective identity and calling
- Covenanting and promise-making
- Leaning into our divided hearts and distracted minds
- Understanding the stages of community
- Exposing the myths of community
- Learning to transform conflict into growth
- Exploring and experimenting with life-giving rhythms

4/Inhabiting Place

PERSONAL FORMATION FOCUS: Intimacy

- The radical incarnation of Jesus in a neighborhood and its global/cosmic implications
- Living locally as global citizens - caring for our neighbors near and far
- Offering the gift of hospitality
- Learning with our neighbors
- Spiritual and historical mapping of a neighborhood or city

5/Sustaining Practices

PERSONAL FORMATION FOCUS: Listening

- Integrating life, family, work, mission, and community
- Practicing community discernment and decision-making
- Giving people away and fueling a movement - being *sent* vs just leaving
- Integrating the sustaining graces of:
 - Gratitude and celebration
 - Confession and forgiveness
 - Selflessness and solitude

FIND OUT MORE

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THRESHOLDS