

# Thresholds Cohort

**A LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE 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 feel called to create an embedded community of faith and reconciliation.

## 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 what we have learned. 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 one-third.
- There will be readings and assigned tasks between each gathering designed to implement our learnings.
- Cohorts will be limited to 10-12 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

# What others are saying...

I can't hide it, I'm a big fan of Threshold's team. Thresholds is not just based on their reading or research into the missional paradigm, it is the fruit of 12 years of radical incarnation and neighborhood transformation. One look at the curriculum for the program will convince you they are the folks to teach you deep, practical, sustainable postures for engaging your neighborhood missionally. Join them!

**Michael Frost, author of *The Shaping of Things to Come, Road to Missional, and Incarnate***

Thresholds cohorts are about concrete missional practices, Spirit-led postures, and real-time learning that sinks deep into your bones and transforms your life and your leadership. These are not pie-in-the-sky theories. Expect the wisest bleeding-edge coaching from leaders who have practiced and refined their understanding for years in the real-life contexts.

**Paul Sparks, cofounder of The Parish Collective and coauthor of *The New Parish***

Thresholds offers an immensely practical and relationally intelligent approach to missional formation that respects the inward and outward dimensions of transformation. I don't know of any team that is more qualified to walk alongside missional leaders.

**Mark Scandrette, founder of ReIMAGINE, author of *FREE, Practicing the Way of Jesus, and Soul Graffiti***

If you have caught a glimpse of what God is doing, but don't know how to join in that work,  
If you long for community but find yourself without companions,  
If you want your walk and your talk to transform one another into an integrated whole,  
Then join Rob Yackley and the Thresholds Cohort.  
They offer the experience and wisdom to guide you through the next phase of the journey.

**Gregory A. Clark, Reba Place Fellowship**

In 1998, I was part of a group of individuals who formed the kind of community that might today be called missional. Mentored by two elders of the Jesus People movement, we learned the art of praxis - action and reflection - as we lived in community with each other and our friends from the streets and the neighborhood. That experience profoundly shaped me as a person and as a pastor. It is the kind of work that the Threshold's team have done for years, and I have no doubt that participating in a Thresholds cohort with them will offer the same kind of transformative experience.

**Sean Gladding, founding member of Commuality, author of *The Story of God, the Story of Us* and *TEN***