

Thresholds Omaha Cohort

A LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE CREATING AND LEADING EMBEDDED COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND RECONCILIATION

WHAT IS IT?

The Thresholds Cohort is a 1-year 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 15 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 1 year on the ground in a host neighborhood.
- Each gathering will be two and a half days (starting Thursday evening and ending Saturday afternoon)
- 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 a personal coaching call.
- Cost: \$2,250 (not including travel, lodging, or meals). Spouses 50% off. Participants are encouraged to contribute one-third of the cost, to ask their faith community to contribute one-third, and to ask people who believe in them to contribute one-third.
- There will be readings and assigned tasks between each gathering designed to re-enforce our learnings.
- Cohorts will be limited to 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 neighborhoods. And we will tackle them in a sequence that addresses the challenges that naturally unfold in this pursuit.

1 **Becoming Sacrament**

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2017

- 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 **Inhabiting Place**

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2, 2017

- 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

3 **Embracing Sojourners**

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2018

- 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

4 **Life Together**

MAY 3-5, 2018

- 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

5 **Sustaining Practices**

AUGUST 2-4, 2018

- 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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