

## "Caring for Cross-Cultural Servants"

A Workshop for Sending Churches Revs. Drs. Anne & John Wheeler-Waddell Member Care Coordinators The Antioch Partners

Churches across many denominations are recapturing, or renewing, the biblical understanding of the people of God as "sent ones." God has always intended the church to be people He is sending into the world with the good news of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming of His kingdom. For over a century and a half many churches from mainline denominations and independent fellowships have been sending servants to the far reaches of the world. From the 1970's the Presbyterian Church has been at the forefront of expanding the church's understanding of God's mission to the ends of the earth. Ralph Winter and Harold Kurtz have helped Presbyterians, as well as the broader church, recognize that there have been (and continue to be!) unreached peoples left unreached by our geographical emphasis in sending and we see dramatic changes in mission priorities and monies for reaching the unreached around the world and in our own cities.

While much has been done and great passion, energy and finances brought to bear in sending people in mission, in the past decade in particular there has been an acknowledgment that **too much of the church has left the sending task of mission to too few in our congregations.** We have begun to recover the biblical understanding that all of us in the church are God's sent ones – not just those who physically go to far places. With much discussion around being "the missional church" we seek to expand involvement of each member of the body of Christ in what God is doing in the world, whether we are among those who go or who stay.

The "Caring for Your Cross-cultural Workers" workshop will help your congregation recover and renew your passion and practice in the ministry of sending and supporting those whom God is calling to cross-cultural, incarnational mission service around the world.

## Through this workshop you will:

- have a fuller **biblical understanding** of the responsibilities of sending and supporting servants in cross-cultural ministry
- understand what is meant by wholistic care of cross-cultural servants for the long haul
- be able to name particular areas of care and support that cross-cultural servants need in different phases of their life and ministry
- have **clear steps** to help your congregation more actively and practically support those you are sending and partnering with in God's mission