

Dear Friends of The Antioch Partners (TAP),

The vision of TAP is “Presbyterians effectively equipped, sent out and supported as they participate in God’s mission in the world, and every Presbyterian congregation extensively, strategically, and radically involved in this process.” As a missionary sending agency, our perspective is the missionaries serving through TAP are the most important resource God has entrusted to us. Essentially, we see our role as working alongside local churches to be sure those serving in long-term, cross-cultural mission service are thriving in their ministry callings and are effective in their Kingdom work.

Because we believe the missionaries serving through TAP are our most important resource, we see the privilege and responsibility of caring for these mission personnel as foundational to all God has called us to be and do. Those who live and serve cross-culturally face unique stresses and challenges, and these stresses can take their toll on the spiritual, emotional, physical and relational health of missionaries. Thus, we are committed to member care (missionary care) that addresses all of these essential areas. We want to see those serving through TAP thrive and grow during their mission service. In terms of the process of providing member care, we see this as a collaborative process where TAP Staff, missionary support team members (churches and individuals), as well as local partners all have vital roles to play.



Anne & John Wheeler-Waddell
TAP Member Care Coordinators

Our experience is that effective member care requires intentional effort, specifically designed structures, and deliberate practices. If this is going to happen, champions are necessary, and we are excited God has raised up member care champions for TAP. Their names are Anne and John Wheeler Waddell and they bring many years of cross-cultural and pastoral experience to their role as Member Care Coordinators for TAP.

As Member Care Coordinators, Anne and John will work both with mission personnel and sending churches in building strong and comprehensive support structures for TAP Partners. Caring for mission personnel has become a passion for them out of their own missionary experiences over many years, and this was an important part of the focus of their doctor of ministry studies in Christian Spirituality at Fuller Seminary. They are excited to bring this passion to their work with TAP. Their goal is to enable the missionaries serving through TAP to be healthy spiritually, emotionally/relationally, physically and intellectually throughout the duration of their mission service.

Our preference is to communicate with you, our ministry partners, through email. Thus, it would be a great help if you could send an email to us (admin@theantiochpartners.org) giving us your name and the best email for us to use (if you represent a church, please indicate the name of the church as well). Thanks in advance for your help with this!

I should note that in addition to their ministry in member care, the Wheeler-Waddells will continue to teach on a part-time basis at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST) in Addis Ababa several months of each year in the mission studies program. In fact, they are now back in Addis at EGST teaching missiology.

We are excited about how God is going to work in and through the Wheeler-Waddells in their roles as Member Care Coordinators. We are excited about what this will mean for the growing number of missionaries serving through TAP, and we are also excited about what this will mean for supporting churches. We have observed the existence of a “will/skill” divide on the part of many local, supporting churches in relation to the member care they provide their missionary partners. In other words, many churches have the will to be meaningfully involved in caring for their mission personnel, but many lack the skills necessary to do this well. Thus, one dimension of Anne and John’s work will be capacity-building with local churches in the area of member care.

If there are mission committee teams, or individual church members, in your local congregations who are interested and/or engaged in member care and would like to interact with the Wheeler-Waddells, they can be reached at membercare@theantiochpartners.org. Anne and John are eager for this type of interaction.

As always, we are grateful to God for you and we thank you for your continued partnership in ministry with TAP!

Serving together for glory of God,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Andrew Adair". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

W. Andrew Adair