

Dear Friends of The Antioch Partners (TAP),

On behalf of all of us connected with TAP, we are grateful for your interest in what God is doing through TAP. One of TAP's core values is partnership and we really do believe God can do more through us working together than he can when we work independently. So, know we are grateful for each of you! We are grateful for your commitment to God's mission in the world and your willingness to work together for the glory of God among the nations.

TAP and Our Changing Context

Just about a month ago several TAP colleagues and I had the privilege of participating in the conferences hosted by The Fellowship of Presbyterians (FOP) and the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) in Colorado Springs and Atlanta. I definitely saw God at work in both of those gatherings.



One of the most encouraging things to me about these gatherings was the intentional emphasis on our call to participate in God's mission, including our call to cross-cultural engagement (the missional identity of the church is one of the essential focuses of The FOP and ECO). To this end TAP, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF) and The Outreach Foundation (TOF) were invited by leaders of The FOP/ECO to facilitate pre-conference gatherings in both CO Springs and Atlanta focused on global mission and cross-cultural engagement. Praise God approximately half of those registered at both conferences participated in these pre-conference gatherings. For me this was an exciting indication that in the midst of our changing denominational context many continue to be passionate about mission and the strategic importance of cross-cultural engagement.

Given the continuing growth and development of both The FOP and ECO, I wanted to comment on TAP's relationship to these movements, as well as TAP's relationship to the PCUSA. As you know, TAP was created to expand long-term, cross-cultural, incarnational ministry opportunities for Presbyterians (TAP was "birthed" as a shared ministry of PFF and TOF and though TAP is now a separate 501c3 organization, TAP still works closely with these founding organizations).

In order to accomplish this, TAP serves local Presbyterian churches in the assessment, training, sending and support of long-term missionaries. Given our focus, TAP is committed to serving Presbyterian congregations regardless of where they are being called by God to affiliate – whether that's staying within the PCUSA and identifying with The FOP, moving to ECO, or transferring to the EPC. In other words, we are committed to serving those who share our evangelical convictions and commitments regardless of where God is leading these congregations to affiliate.



Urbana 2012

Every three years an amazing gathering of students and young adults takes place in St. Louis called the Urbana Student Missions Conference (previously this conference was held in Urbana, IL). It is expected that over 18,000 young people will gather this December at Urbana 2012 to be challenged to give their whole life to God's global mission (www.urbana.org). What a strategic place for TAP to be (especially since the largest denominational group at Urbana are Presbyterians), don't you think? We think so, too, and that's why TAP will have a booth at Urbana!

Here's where we need your help. Since our focus is on serving Presbyterian churches and individuals connected to those churches, we need you to help us get the word out to any of your churches that will be sending young adults to Urbana this year. Please let them know TAP will have a booth in the exhibit hall (you'll probably need to explain to them who TAP is and what we do!) and encourage them to stop by TAP's booth. We'd love to connect with them, hear about what they are interested in, share with them about TAP and pray with them. Also, we'll have some great giveaways, so if they stop by early on, they might end up with something that will be a special blessing for them. So, if you could contact those at your church likely to be involved in getting young adults to Urbana 2012 and let them know about TAP's booth – that will be a huge help for us. Thank you!

Serving together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Andrew Adair". The signature is written in a cursive style.

W. Andrew Adair

Executive Director, The Antioch Partners

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