



**FAIR TRADE
CAMPAIGNS**

Fair Trade Congregations

3 Months to Declaration (October – December)

The process of achieving status as a [Fair Trade Congregation](#) consists of meeting [three goals](#). With some planning and a bit of hard work, these three goals can be achieved in as little as three months! Below is a suggested timeline full of ideas and tips for achieving status as a Fair Trade Congregation from October to December.

OCTOBER

- October a great time to get your congregation excited about Fair Trade because it's [Fair Trade Month](#)! Every October ethically conscious businesses, consumers, and advocates come together to celebrate and promote the Fair Trade movement.
- For many congregations, the first step towards achieving Fair Trade status is to get the support of congregational leadership. Take advantage of all the excitement around Fair Trade Month and educate your congregation's leaders about the importance of [Fair Trade](#)!
- Celebrate the wonderful shift to the crisp fall weather by introducing [Fair Trade coffee, tea, or hot cocoa](#) throughout your congregation's normal activities. **(Work towards Goal 2)**
- Many congregations have some sort of fall festival or fall holiday celebration around October. Take advantage of the pre-existing event by incorporating and teaching your congregation about different types of Fair Trade products. Organizations like [Equal Exchange](#) and [Divine Chocolate](#) have lots of great resources to help make Fair Trade a part of any celebration! **(Work towards Goal 3)**

NOVEMBER

- In the spirit of Thanksgiving, work with members of your congregation to host an event to teach about the connection we all have as one human family. Show a [video](#), host a discussion, or work with your congregational leader to focus a sermon around the impact and importance of Fair Trade. **(Work towards Goal 1)**
 - Fair Trade Campaigns has [a great resource](#) to help show the connections between different faith traditions and Fair Trade. Also check out these resources from [Lutheran World Relief](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#), and [Fair Trade Judaica](#).
- Increase the Fair Trade presence at your congregation by adding an additional [Fair Trade product](#) as part of the everyday routine! Look into what products are easily available and what members of your congregation are interested in, whether it be chocolate, sugar, wine for services, kitchen items, or worship vestments, just to name a few. **(Work towards Goal 2)**

DECEMBER

- Encourage congregants to look to Fair Trade for all their holiday gift needs with a Fair Trade holiday sale. Several [Fair Trade Federation members](#) offer opportunities for both fundraiser sales and consignment sales. **(Work towards Goal 3)**
 - Organizations like [Catholic Relief Services](#), [Lutheran World Relief](#), and [Fair Trade Judaica](#) also have resources for congregations looking to host a Fair Trade holiday sale.
- Incorporate the social justice implications of [Fair Trade into holiday celebrations](#) at your congregation. Draw connections between the message of your holiday and the Fair Trade movement through organizing a holiday reflection, sermon, or event for your congregation. **(Work towards Goal 1)**
- As a new year approaches, [plan a celebration](#) to share the news of becoming a declared Fair Trade Congregation! This is a great achievement and can rally more excitement and momentum around Fair Trade in your community.