



Fair Trade Congregations

3 Months to Declaration (February – April)

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 February to April.

FEBRUARY

- 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 the New Year and educate your congregation's leaders about the importance of [Fair Trade](#)!
- Celebrate the chilly winter weather by introducing [Fair Trade coffee, tea, or hot cocoa](#) throughout your congregation's normal activities. **(Work towards Goal 2)**
- Spread awareness and excitement about the Fair Trade campaign by helping to educate your congregation about the connection between Fair Trade and your faith tradition. 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](#).

MARCH

- Mark [International Women's Day on March 8](#) with a celebration of the dignity and life of women around the world! Host a reflection, event, or special service around the important women of your faith tradition and connect them to all the wonderful [women of Fair Trade](#). **(Work towards Goal 1)**
- Celebrate the coming of spring with a Fair Trade sale! Encourage members of your congregation to bring in the new season by supporting artisans all over the world. 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 sale.

APRIL

- 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)**
- Many faith traditions celebrate holidays of rebirth and renewed peace during the spring. Take advantage of this by making Fair Trade a part of your holiday celebration. See where Fair Trade products can be added to your congregation's celebrations or receptions! **(Work towards Goal 3)**
- Now that you have met all three goals, [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.