



Fair Trade Congregations: Three Months to Declaration

The process of achieving status as a [Fair Trade Congregation](#) consists of meeting three goals:

1. Build Your Team
2. Commit to Fair Trade Education and Events
3. Source Fair Trade Products.

With some planning and a bit of hard work, these three goals can be achieved in as little as three months! Below are two suggested timelines full of ideas and tips for achieving status as a Fair Trade Congregation.

SPRING | FEBRUARY – 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! These conversations are a great opportunity to recruit support for your new Fair Trade campaign. **(Work towards Goal 1)**
- Celebrate the chilly winter weather by introducing Fair Trade coffee, tea, or hot cocoa throughout your congregation's normal activities. **(Work towards Goal 3)**
- 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 2)**
 - Fair Trade Campaigns has [a great resource](#) to help show the connections between different faith traditions and Fair Trade.

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 2)**
- 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 fundraisers and consignment sales. **(Work towards Goal 2)**

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 3)**
- 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. **(Work towards Goal 2)**
- 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.

FALL | OCTOBER – 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. Take advantage of all the excitement around Fair Trade Month and educate your congregation's leaders about the importance of Fair Trade. These conversations are a great opportunity to recruit support for your new Fair Trade campaign. **(Work towards Goal 1)**
- 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 3)**
- 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. **(Work towards Goal 2)**

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 2)**
 - Fair Trade Campaigns has [a great resource](#) to help show the connections between different faith traditions and Fair Trade.
- 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 3)**

DECEMBER

- Mark [Human Rights Day on December 10](#) with a celebration of how Fair Trade and your faith tradition support human rights. Host a reflection, event, or special service to educate your community. **(Work towards Goal 2)**
- 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 2)**
- 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.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Fair Trade Congregations Toolkit](#)

[Faith-Specific Resources](#)

[Fair Trade Book & Film List](#)

QUESTIONS? Contact us at admin@fairtradecampaigns.org.