

# BECOME A FAIR TRADE CHURCH

Fair Trade is intimately connected with our Christian values, including the protection of Human Rights and the Environment. Engaging in a Fair Trade Initiative will help your church address such issues as Global Poverty and Climate Change.

## SERVE IT

During fellowship time after service, serve Fair Trade products such as Coffee, Tea, Sugar, etc. This will help create awareness about Fair Trade in the congregation. To find and purchase Fair Trade products, go to: [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)



## SELL IT

Let the congregation participate in making a difference by periodically selling Fair Trade products. Explore a variety of products from these sites:

- [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)
- [www.divinechocolate.com](http://www.divinechocolate.com)
- [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)
- [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)



## PLAN IT

Form a Fair Trade committee and plan special services for the Spring and Fall. Also, consider hosting special events throughout the year or inviting local guest speakers from Fair Trade businesses or non-profits to highlight the importance of Fair Trade practices.

### Ideas for Special Events:

- Bible Study (Fair Trade: Using Our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope - Partners for Just Trade)
- Film Night
- Chocolate Tasting
- Treasure Hunt
- Fashion Show ([www.matatraders.com](http://www.matatraders.com))
- Trick or Treat (Equal Exchange Reverse Trick or Treat)
- Christmas Bazaar (See Below For Resources)



## OTHER THOUGHTS

- Have your Church Council approve becoming a Fair Trade Church
- Register your Church on [www.fairtradecampaigns.org](http://www.fairtradecampaigns.org)
- Include updates on your campaign in your Newsletter
- Teach a Fair Trade curriculum in Sunday School
- Provide your community with educational literature and resources

## RESOURCES

- Information and Resources on Fair Trade in the Mankato Area - [www.maftti.org](http://www.maftti.org)
- Food and Drink for Fellowship Time - [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)
- General Fair Trade Information - [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org) and [www.fairtradeusa.org](http://www.fairtradeusa.org)
- Christmas Bazaar (Only pay for what you sell) - [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com), [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org), [www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org)

To become a fair trade church, you will want to do the following: Serve fair trade products at your coffee hour and events, have educational activities at least twice a year and teach fair trade in Sunday school. You know best what approach appeals to your congregation and where your inspiration lies. Just start with something easy, fun, and creative - one small effort - and keep building awareness. At first you may get discouraged because people don't show much interest.

But don't give up. As with everything important, perseverance and determination will work. Awareness and interest will grow slowly over time. It took us 3 to 4 years to form a committee and start doing more events like a Fair Trade service and Sunday school lesson. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to call us or email Jane Dow at [janedow@hickorytech.net](mailto:janedow@hickorytech.net)

**MANKATOUCC.ORG**  
**(507) 387-6592**

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