

Fair Trade

at MCC

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade is a way to vote for treating the poor with dignity by paying them a living wage, insisting that environmental principles are respected, and ensuring that children are educated, not used for labor. The products are made by people who are taken from human trafficking or the sex trade, from people with HIV/AIDS, from the poorest of the poor.

We believe there are lots of people who want to vote in solidarity with them. We are looking to raise up MISSIONAL CONSUMERS that use their spending power year-round to give steady jobs to our producers. So think, next time you have to buy a gift, a card, shampoo, rice, coffee – could you side with the poor by buying Fair Trade and voting to bring good news to **them**? If we can do that, we move from single acts of kindness to building kindness into a system – commerce - that has enormous power.



Trade As One



Trade (trad), v.: to exchange for mutual benefit

As One, (az wun) adv.: united, acting for a common purpose

trading post (noun): A place for people to meet and exchange goods and news from the world.

Our church can become the center of ethical purchasing in our community.

Manchester Christian Church is partnering with Trade as One to bring Fair Trade into our campus on a regular basis. The Trade as One Trading Post program allows our church members to buy the things they need, such as food items, lotions, coffee, tea, cards, and much more - right on our campus. This allows our church members to change their spending habits, bringing long-term employment to the developing world, and a way out of the cycles of dependency that trap so many in our world.



About our Coffee Partner

Pura Vida, our coffee partner, is a small company with a big story to tell. Founded by Christ-followers, the work of Pura Vida is rooted in personal faith and the desire to serve the poor through transforming lives and communities in coffee-growing regions of the world. Their mission to help at-risk children in coffee growing countries begins with their commitment to carry only Fair Trade, organic, shade-grown coffees. Their gourmet coffees help raise living standards for farmers and protect the environment. Manchester Christian Church is delighted to partner with Pura Vida in the Trading Post of our Stepping Stones Café. For more information on Pura Vida's mission and company, visit their website:

www.puravidacoffee.com



About Trade as One

Founded in 2006 by Nathan and Cath George, Trade as One is a Fair Trade company that exists to equip the church to use its spending power to help free captives, release the oppressed, and bring good news to the poor. The Bible has plenty to say about the connection between our spending habits and the Kingdom of God. By directing our spending to help the people that Jesus called "the least of these," (Matt. 25:40), they support his mission to "bring good news to the poor," (Luke 4:18) which was so central to his understanding of God's Kingdom. For more information on Trade As One, visit www.tradeasone.com.

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."
- Isaiah 1:17

“The church is going to have to become the conscience of the free market.”

- Bono



Trading Post & Stepping Stones Café FAQ

Where is the Trade As One Trading Post?

Trading Post items are displayed and sold in the Stepping Stones Café.

When will the Stepping Stones Café and Trading Post be open?

- Sundays from 7:45am-1pm
- Special events (to be announced)

When will coffee now be served?

Coffee will only be served and sold during the times shown above. As more volunteers come forward to participate, we are excited to expand those hours of operation to include selected times during other ministry events throughout the week.

What brand of coffee will be served?

We are pleased to offer Pura Vida coffee in their various gourmet blends. See the front page for more information on our partner, Pura Vida.

Why are we now charging for coffee?

The idea that coffee has been “free” in the past is actually a bit of a misconception. While we may not have charged for coffee, it was a significant item in

our operating budget. Achieving our ministry vision for the Stepping Stones Café is only possible if we all pay a fair price for the food and drinks we each consume.

Is the Stepping Stones Café a “for profit” enterprise?

No. Our plan does not call for the Café to actually make a profit in the near future. It is intended to be offered as a service to our visitors and regulars, and the revenues generated are anticipated to be sufficient, over time, to support the ongoing operation of the Café. If we were to receive more money as a result of Café sales than expected, the excess would be earmarked for other ministry uses.

Is selling coffee and Fair Trade items at church OK?

Yes it is. Although in the gospels Jesus became angry with the sellers and money changers in the temple, it’s important to remember that these people, driven by greed, were exploiting vulnerable foreign pilgrims by charging unfair rates for items required for them to participate in worship. At the Stepping Stones Café, our goal is to serve, not to be served or to seek profit. There is no more appropriate place for these kinds of purchases to take place

than in the walls of our campus. Our mission is to help the church to take the lead in the Fair Trade Movement in New England.

How is the Stepping Stones Café and Trading Post being staffed?

The Stepping Stones Café and Trading Post are staffed by a team of volunteers who take orders, prepare coffee, and work behind the scenes. They are managed by Lisa Mazur who serves on the MCC staff as Outreach Team Leader. All contribute to making these ministries in the Café a smooth operation.

This sounds like fun! Who do I contact to volunteer?

Lisa can’t wait to hear from you! Contact her at lmazur@manchesterchristian.com



You don’t just want to buy stuff, you want to change the world.

