

Notes from FATSAT Monthly Meeting

May 10, 2026

Opening Comments

History of Mother's Day. The tradition started as an anti-war movement. It is now celebrated as a time to honor mother figures in our lives.

Poem – Tree of Life by Anon.

Lament: Lynn talked about the hard-heartedness we see everywhere in the way politicians and many people are talking to and treating others.

Lynn shared pictures of where the City of Tacoma has placed rocks so people experiencing homelessness can't camp there.

- Sally added that in the place where these boulders are, a 32 y/o young man was murdered, and part of what the city did in placing those boulders was taking down the memorial to that man. If people thought of homeless people as human beings, things wouldn't happen this way.

Lynn doesn't remember this kind of hard-heartedness in the past. It seems like it's something that's growing in this nation. What do we do besides lament? Lament involves not just grief but doing something about it

Lynn: reading about how hate develops in nations, etc. Unacknowledged grief is part of it. Unacknowledged grief can lead to hard-heartedness.

It's easier to lament the actions of Donald Trump or Pete Hegseth etc., harder to acknowledge our own part.

Poem: "Cry of Lament for a Hard Heart" by Anon.

Conversation added lament from those who have worked on homelessness for years, that this is still happening. But also, Peace was just approved for money to help build a goal of 29 affordable housing units on the corner lot and Associated Ministries is also helping other faith groups do this.

Hope: Jo showed Instagram videos of David Attenborough, read Psalm 104.

Diane reported on the Coalition's Town Hall about having independent civilian oversight of the police force. It was a big success. Over 200 people from all kinds of backgrounds. Very hopeful! Call to action at the end that was like a revival.

Action:

Bringing Our Priorities to Life

- Report on Letter to the Bishop:
 - John talked to the bishop directly after bishop read the letter, and bishop was very interested.

- The bishop will now wait for us to give the final letter so the bishop can send it out to the synod as a recommendation for a spiritual practice.
- Next: Lynn will finalize the letter

Envisioning the future for which we strive: Andrew, Lynn, Tom, Diane and Luke

- Anti-Racism grant funds are available if we want to request them for our envisioning the future retreat.
 - Freedom to vote – there’s an attack on Black people voting. Our work on educating and voting would support this
 - Investing in what is evolving naturally in the group as an arm of action
 - Young person in the community wants to present to FATSAT about Worker’s Bill of Rights, also part of anti-Racism
 - Diane has been invited to speak at Lucas’s church about the church and anti-racism and FATSAT
 - American Leadership Foundation was interested in hearing about FATSAT
 - This group and the work that we do might attract more people of color
 - Important to be clear what we’re grounded in, not making statements that are performative.
 - Sally is gifted in grant-writing, was recommended to write this grant, and agreed. As a reminder for the future, Lucas also has skills in grant-writing.

Primary decisions that need to be made include:

1. Selecting a FATSAT “point person” to coordinate this effort
2. Lining out a fuller description of what we want to accomplish (What do we mean by “Envisioning the future we are striving for as a group”)
 1. Our group’s future? Or the future that the group can help facilitate?
 2. What do we want the community we live in to be?
 3. Lucas’s brainstormed list:
 1. Full representation for all voters
 2. Safe passage for all(immigrants)
 3. Common sense immigration system
 4. Equality for community
 5. Essentialness of having young voices
3. Understanding what the benefits of a retreat may be and what possible challenges there may be
 1. Limiting scope
4. Deciding what we wish to include as the basic content of any retreat we may hold
 1. Consider starting by recognizing where we come from
 2. Original principles of the group – biblical, symbols of the faith, lament/hope/action,
5. Deciding when, where, and duration of a potential retreat
 1. Offsite is better
 2. The trip itself is part of the process. The travel to the place is just as important as the time itself.

1. Do some carpooling – we belong to each other during this time.
 6. Selecting possible facilitator candidates
 7. Determining what other folks, *if any*, we would like to invite to join us (for example: Church staff members, a Council member, An anti-racism work group member, Hilltop community members.....
- Conversation with Manis and the youth of the church: Andrew, Ben and Jo
 - Ben is back from vacation, now knows he is part of this group
 - Lucas’s church is forming a youth spoken word choir – they could come here and share with our youth, maybe eventually collaboration?
 - Election Readiness: Nick, Sally, Rick and Nancy
 - Sally did research on this. One of the things we can work on is: how can we help people vote well? How do you assess a race to decide? Offering tools to do that, then people make their own decisions.
 - Kit will post the articles to the website that Sally is talking about
 - Voting rights issues: Supreme Court Decision: this is a white supremacist effort that has always been there, they have been working on this for a long time. People should understand what is happening beneath all of this
 - Metaphor of racism in America: as underlying illness like addiction, where this current time is a bender, have to go through rock bottom before change
 - Metaphor of racism in America at this time: birth pangs – in the middle of it you want to quit, but you have to go through it for new birth to happen.
 - How to use the 250th anniversary of USA in all of this?
 - Consider ways we could make an ecumenical effort: Lynn, Diane, Andrew and Rick
 - It looks like the ecumenical community is coming to us naturally.

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Lynn: Face of Christ icon. Sinai Pantocrator

Next Meeting: June 14, 2026. 12:30 – 2 pm

Opening – Lynn

Lament – Ben and Lisa

Hope – Lucas

Action – Diane

Respectfully submitted,
Jo and Kit