

**Report from the Three Rivers Visiting Committee**  
**September 24, 2023**

Dear Susan,

We hope the attached report communicates our intent in carrying out our duties as a Listening Committee. Hopefully, clarity about our work will free up the Permanent Board for further processing the August meeting.

In the Light,

Ellen, Mary, and Regina

**Report from the Three Rivers Visiting Committee**  
(Regina McCarthy, Ellen Neelands, and Mary Zwirner)  
September 24, 2023

We understand our work as fulfilling the role of a designated visiting committee of Salem Quarter, as outlined in the [Faith and Practice chapter on establishing new meetings](#). We are reporting to Permanent Board, in lieu of Salem Quarter, due to the Sabbatical.

Confusion about the process of establishing a meeting during the Salem Quarter sabbatical, has created friction and hard feelings, adding to our work, in ways not anticipated by Faith & Practice. We believe in the healing of deep, respectful listening. Accordingly, we plan to listen for the diversity of voices in our communities, in two stages:

1. Consultation & visitation with the Three Rivers community. We have listened to the hosts, and are in the process of setting up a listening time, with the shared goal of, "raising up what is on people's hearts: hopes, fears, concerns, all of it."
2. Consultation and deep listening with the Salem Quarter community. Planning for this stage will be built on the first, likely with similar goals. Naturally, Permanent Board members who are a part of Salem Quarter will be included in our work with the Quarter.

We intend to continue to keep you apprised of our progress along the way, and are always happy to receive your guidance and input as we embark upon this important work. We are, of course, happy to answer any questions that we can. We suggest that people with questions about Three Rivers attend worship with them and go to their website to find out more.

Ultimately, we plan to bring a report to Permanent Board that reflects the complex tapestry of voices within Salem Quarter, including the part of Salem Quarter known as the Three Rivers Worship Group.

In the Light,

Mary, Ellen, and Regina

September 25, 2023