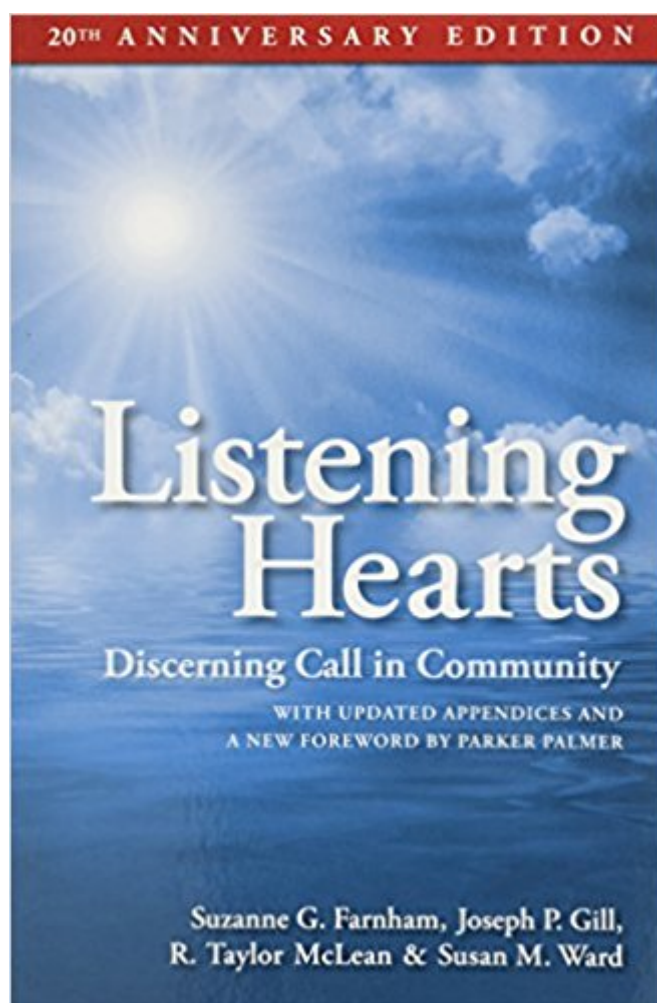


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# Listening Hearts 20th Anniversary Edition: Discerning Call In Community



## Synopsis

This 20th anniversary edition introduces the unique approach of Listening Hearts to the spiritual practice of discernment for a new generation. Written to make the often elusive and usually clergy-centered *Â* *Â* spiritual practice of discernment accessible to all people, Listening Hearts features simple reflections and exercises drawn from scripture and from Quaker and Ignatian traditions. The seminal work in the Listening Hearts Series, this book has been a beloved resource for tens of thousands of individual readers, retreat participants, small groups and church leaders, listening for and responding to God's call in their lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Suzanne G. Farnham is the founder of Listening Hearts Ministries and a popular speaker and retreat leader. Joseph P. Gill is a US attorney, active lay leader and trainer in Listening Hearts Ministries. R. Taylor Mclean is an active lay leader in Baltimore, MD and serves as president of the Listening Hearts Ministries board of trustees. Susan M. Ward is a former Listening Hearts trustee, who lives in Baltimore, where she is an active lay leader.

I found it insightful and educating within the bounds of my spiritual life. Wonderful book if studied with those who might want the same. We are not supposed to sit only within the walls of our churches; nay, not even our own walls. Please read.

The issue of discernment, or attempting to understand God's will for us in our lives and the direction it should take, is one on which regrettably too little attention has been spent in the Church until recently. This book answers that dearth of material by presenting what proves to be both an emanently practical and highly instructive method and motive. The method was developed in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland with great assistance and input from members of the area Quaker community. The Society of Friends influence shows prominently, as the main focus of the process (and it is a process, as opposed to a goal in and of itself) is to discover and arrive at consensus regarding God's revealed will through reflective prayer rather than convince anyone of anything via cerebral justifications. For this group, the method became the first step in the ordination process, though they are quick to note that the method need not be limited to those seeking ordination, but rather can be used by anyone seeking a discernment of God's will for his or her life. *Listening Hearts* is replete with quotations and an exhaustive bibliography. At the very least, it serves as a starting point for someone considering a time of discernment. The book is not discouraging of ordained vocations, but instead acknowledges that often discerners too quickly latch onto ordination as the only answer to a vocation in the Church. The method emphasizes prayer and heartfelt reflection as the main means of determining God's will, which is as it should be. Those seeking a time of discernment should read this book for "the other side" of the discussion -- a viewpoint which urges caution, deliberation, and openness to the multiplicity of God's purposes. It provides a strong balance, essential to any spiritual journey.

A delightfully simple but profound book detailing experiences of Spiritual Direction and encouraging the reader to take time each day to meditate or connect with their higher power, although Christian in overall language, it is a book that can be easily adapted to any faith tradition.

I purchased this for my husband who is on a discernment committee for a 60 year old man at our church. He found the book was very useful and informative. In his opinion, the footnotes and the appendices are outstanding and filled with useful information and resources.

A small but concise introduction to the discernment process. Might want to consider getting the book at the library as it is a quick read.

I was somewhat disappointed in the book. It had about the same amount of workshop preparations

material as it did actually reading the book. I was hoping for more in depth of how I can hear God's call. My priest had the book and talked about it in his sermon, so I figured I would buy it. I didn't learn much from it. But it did confirm my thoughts.

This volume is helpful just to help the discernment process in general, but more specifically in a religious context. It's an excellent primer in helping focus on really listening to the person who seeks discernment as well as in suggesting the right kinds of questions to pose.

very helpful

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