Ann Marie Hardy Spelman Bio

Anne Marie Hardy Spelman works as a spiritual director, a homeschooling mother of three children, and a classical musician. She has operated a small spiritual direction practice ever since she earned a master's degree in Christian Spirituality and a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Creighton University in 2013. She also holds a BA in Philosophy and English Literature. As a spiritual director, Anne Marie seeks to hold a safe space for people to process their spiritual journeys. She tries to listen deeply and companion each directee as they together notice and honor the individual's inner light and inner knowing.

Now in her 8th year as a home educator, Anne Marie loves learning alongside her children, ages 13, 11 and 8. She enjoys teaching all the subjects, but is particular to history, literature and geography.

Anne Marie finds great joy as a classical pianist, serving as an accompanist for First Mennonite Church in Bluffton. She often plays for Bluffton University's convocation and commencement ceremonies. She enjoys giving occasional recitals and is currently preparing a program of Philip Glass' etudes.

Anne Marie worked for many years as a writer and editor. More recently, she has written a bit for *Anabaptist World* and has contributed two sets of children's time stories for Central District Conference's worship resources. Four of those stories were set among one of Camp Friedenswald's surprisingly wise squirrel communities.

Anne Marie feels most grounded when playing the piano, and knows that, for her, music is an opening to the reality of being connected to everything beyond her. She loves to help others recognize and celebrate what helps *them* feel connected to their own selves, to God, to others, and to all creation.