

## PHILIP GULLEY BIO



Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor and writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana where he lives today with his wife, Joan. Many of his characters and recollections are taken from his boyhood in this small Midwestern town.

Gulley attended Marian University in Indianapolis where he studied theology and sociology. He then enrolled at Christian Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity in 1992. He was discovered by Paul Harvey, Jr., the son of the radio commentator Paul Harvey, when Paul, Jr. visited his Quaker meeting one Sunday and began receiving the congregation's newsletter. Mr. Harvey read one of Phil's essays on the air, a publisher overheard the broadcast and signed Phil to a multi-book contract, beginning with his first book, *Front Porch Tales*, his first book in the best-selling *Porch Talk* series of inspirational and humorous essays.

An eclectic writer, Gulley has published 22 books, including the acclaimed *Harmony* series chronicling life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana. Gulley's latest fictional series continues the exploits of Sam Gardner, first introduced in the *Harmony* series. The new *Hope* series includes *A Place Called Hope*, *A Lesson in Hope*, and *A Gathering in Hope*, his most recent fictional release.

Gulley's memoir, *I Love You, Miss Huddleston: And Other Inappropriate Longings of My Indiana Childhood*, recounts his coming-of-age years in Danville, Indiana. It was recognized as an Indiana Book of the Year, and was a semi-finalist for the James Thurber Prize for American Humor.

Gulley has also written several books of theology. He and co-author James Mulholland describe their progressive worldview in their books *If Grace Is True* and *If God Is Love*. Gulley then went on to write *If the Church Were Christian* in which he presents a profound picture of what the church could look like if it refocused on the priorities of Jesus. In his book *The Evolution of Faith* he proposes a fresh direction for Christianity and articulates a Christianity that, while faithful to the priorities of Jesus, can help its adherents live happily, peacefully, and productively in our complex world. The Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu said of that book, "In our ever-changing world, Gulley's book is much needed. An important book for any person of faith."

In *Living the Quaker Way: Timeless Wisdom for a Better Life Today*, Gulley offers the opportunity to participate in a world where the values of the Quaker way bring equity, peace, healing, and hope. He invites his readers to encounter the defining commitments of the Religious Society of Friends—*simplicity, peace, integrity, community* and *equality*, and shows how those ideals can be incorporated in personal and public life to bring renewal and eliminate the clutter that is keeping us from deeper spirituality.

Gulley's 22<sup>nd</sup> book, entitled *Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe* explores the process of spiritual growth, especially the re-interpretation of the earliest principles we learned about God.

Gulley has served as a Quaker pastor for 39 years, pastoring Fairfield Friends Meeting in Camby, Indiana for the past 24 years. Additionally, he hosted the television program *Porch Talk with Phil Gulley* on the Indiana PBS affiliate WFYI and their flagship show *Across Indiana*, for which he received two Emmy® Awards. He also writes the popular monthly *Home Again* column for *Indianapolis Monthly* and is a regular contributor to the *Lighter Side* column for *The Saturday Evening Post*. In 2010, Christian Theological Seminary awarded Gulley an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. In 2014, Gulley was presented with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Franklin College, in recognition of his body of work.