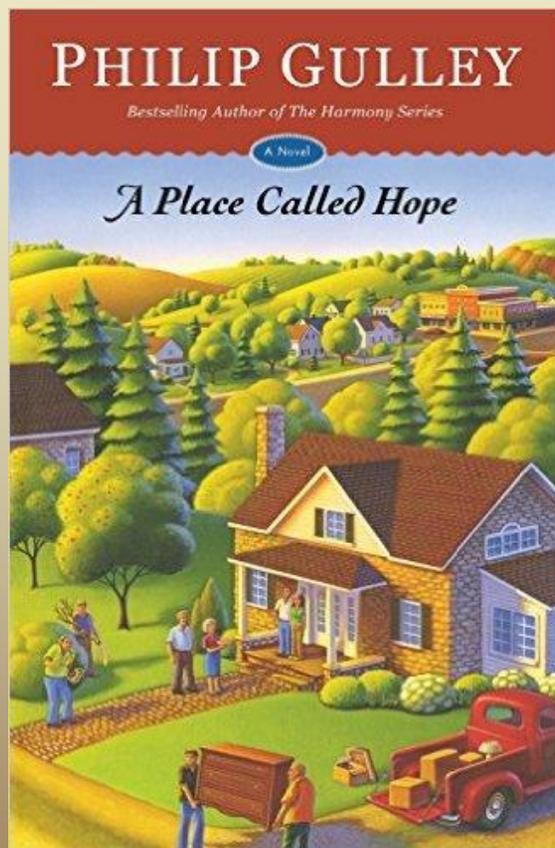


# A Place Called Hope

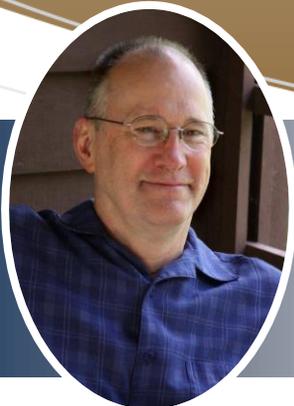
When Quaker Pastor Sam Gardner is asked by the ill Unitarian minister to oversee a wedding in his place, Sam naturally agrees. It's not until the couple stands before him that he realizes they're two women. In the tempest of strong opinions and misunderstandings that follows the incident, Sam faces potential unemployment. Deeply discouraged, he wonders if his pastoral usefulness has come to an end. Sam is contemplating a future selling used cars when he receives a call from a woman in the suburban town of Hope, Indiana. It seems Hope Friends Meeting is in desperate need of a pastor. Though they only have twelve members, they also have a beautiful meetinghouse and a pie committee (Sam is fond of pie). But can he really leave his beloved hometown of Harmony?

Book summary adapted from  
[philipgulley.com](http://philipgulley.com).



Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor, writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana. Gulley has written 21 books, including the *Harmony* series recounting life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana and the best-selling *Porch Talk* essay series. Gulley's memoir, *I Love You, Miss Huddleston: And Other Inappropriate Longings of My Indiana Childhood*, was a finalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Gulley, with co-author James Mulholland, shared their progressive spirituality in the books *If Grace Is True* and *If God Is Love*, followed by Gulley's books *If the Church Were Christian* and *The Evolution of Faith*. 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 essays appear in every issue of *Indianapolis Monthly* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. Gulley is the 2016 Regional Author winner of the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award.

## Philip Gulley



The Eugene  
& Marilyn Glick  
★ INDIANA

*Authors*

a program of The Indianapolis  
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## Useful Links

Article about Gulley "in harmony":  
<http://bit.ly/2gGta3s>

GraceTalks messages from Gulley:  
[philipgulley.com/gracetalk-messages/](http://philipgulley.com/gracetalk-messages/)

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:  
[indianaauthorsaward.org](http://indianaauthorsaward.org)

# The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into four categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Genre Excellence, for writers who excel in a specific literary genre; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

## Discussion Questions



1. Gulley excels at crafting richly-drawn, flawed characters. What character in *A Place Called Hope* did you find most memorable? Why?
2. Quaker pastor Sam Gardner, moves from his home of Harmony to a town called Hope. Why do you think Gulley chose to use virtues to name the towns? Is there a deeper meaning in Sam's transition from Harmony to Hope?
3. Gulley is often compared to other famous humorists, such as Garrison Keillor. What makes Gulley's storytelling style unique? Is there such a thing as regional humor. If so, what makes Gulley's humor Midwestern?
4. Compare the town of Hope to other small towns depicted in literature or on screen. How does Gulley use classic stereotypes of small-town life to humorous effect?
5. Quakers values simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. How do those beliefs manifest in *A Place Called Hope*? Do you think having a religious background influences the way a reader experiences the novel?
6. Gulley sprinkles many life lessons throughout the novel. What one stuck out to you the most?