

CHURCH TESTIMONIALS

“The weekend surpassed all of my hopeful expectations! Both Philip’s stories and his challenging theology were engaging and inspiring for our folks. I truly believe Philip gave us one of the very best retreats we have experienced to date, and we have had some outstanding leaders in the past. Philip’s unique blend of winsome, self-deprecating humor and honest unpacking of insightful faith spoke so clearly and eloquently of the type of faith journey Christ charged us to pursue. Philip’s devotion to the church in spite of its obvious flaws also challenged our members to build an even more meaningful community of faith. I believe our adding of the Q & A session on Saturday night made a tremendous contribution to the weekend, and I’m so grateful to Philip for his flexibility in providing that opportunity for folks to ask their deeper questions. I am so grateful for the opportunity for those healthy questions to be raised and so skillfully and sensitively addressed.” – Rev. Stephanie Nash, Second Baptist Church, Lubbock TX

“We had a wonderful evening with Philip! He exceeded every expectation and was very gracious with his time here. The only negative I heard was that we will struggle to top his visit next year with our second annual such evening.” –Pastor J.D. Rose, Saron United Church of Christ, Linton IN

“Like every other church, Sylvania United Church of Christ has folks at many different places in their spiritual odysseys. Philip spoke to us, no matter where we were in our individual journeys. His kind and gentle spirit was a model for human relationships and his words challenged us to go beyond ourselves to dream about and then discover what could be. Philip is now a part of our history and we will be quoting from his presentations and his books for years to come.” – Al Palmer, Sylvania United Church of Christ, Sylvania OH

“Philip Gulley had hardly left our church before people were asking about when we could have him back. I wholeheartedly echo the sentiments of the congregation, who found Philip to be humorous and humble and refreshingly authentic. I find that his wisdom about the challenging nature of church and faith has struck a chord with our community and has called us to look carefully at who we are and how we are living out the Gospel in our place and time. Philip was a prophetic presence in our services and I will welcome the opportunity to have him teach and preach at Cathedral of Hope again.” -- Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas TX

“Phil Gulley is a delightful combination of Garrison Keillor, Will Rogers and your local minister. While his message is about the radical and inclusive love of God, his style is so warm and witty you find yourself simply charmed into new insights about faith. As a pastor of a church who brings in many nationally-known speakers and teachers, I am sometimes impressed with their acumen but disappointed with their effect upon our spiritual community. Phil has an uncanny ability to both challenge and upbuild the church at the same time. He will warm your heart, open your mind and animate your congregation’s spirit.” --Dr. James Keck, Sr. Minister First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln NE

“I think Phil Gulley is the best combination of theologian and humorist I’ve ever seen or heard.” -- Rev. Catherine M. O’Connell, Naples United Church of Christ, Naples, FL

“We asked Philip Gulley to come and think with us about change in the wider community. As he so ably does, Philip wrote a story. It allowed those present to see themselves with humor and to understand that in the midst of change God’s grace works to fashion amazing new things. This is one of Philip’s great gifts – to articulate truth in ways that are disarming and allow those who read or listen to him to find themselves inspired, challenged to grow, and held in love. A recent opportunity to hear Philip again yielded a deep appreciation for his willingness to be both very honest about what we can and cannot say about God, but also very humble. Most of all, Philip engenders a generous spirit among those gathered, by offering that very spirit himself. My contact with him as a writer and speaker has always left me better for my exposure to his unique blend of storytelling, theological reflection, and gracious spirituality.” -- Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, David’s United Church of Christ, Canal Winchester OH,

“Having Philip Gulley speak as a part of our "One Book, One Church" series was not just entertaining, it was inspiring. His theology is open and relevant. His Christology is edgy and challenging, creating dialogue and encouraging others to clarify and articulate their own faith. With a loving and gentle approach, Mr. Gulley speaks of God as the relevant and adaptable source of all being. Fabulous!” -- Deb Strock-Kuss, Associate Minister Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, IN

“Phil Gulley has found and lives in a God of loving grace. In a day when the church is all too often judgmental, rigidly doctrinal, and drawing the lines of who is in and who is out, Phil’s message comes as a breath of fresh air. For those who struggle with the contrast between who they encounter Jesus to be in the Bible and the way Christ is portrayed in society, Phil Gulley is for you! His down-to-earth approachability and heartwarming humor bring faith to life. I believe Phil has a message that every church and for that matter every person of faith would benefit from hearing.” --Pastor Scott Oberle, Portage United Church of Christ, Portage MI

"Phil Gulley is a precious gift to the church. He is a unique combination of intelligence, humor, and storyteller, all of which he uses to share meaningful spiritual insights. He is a noteworthy leader among Christians who are trying to give voice to a gospel of Jesus that at the end of the day really is 'good news.' I treasure his wisdom and consider him an essential friend on the journey." -- Rev. Dr. Michael D. Castle, Cross Creek Community Church, United Church of Christ, Dayton OH

“Philip's sharing was enlightening and thought provoking and his presentation was, as I fully expected it to be, very personable! We were delighted with our time with him.” -- Rev. Rob Fulton, The Presbytery of the Miami Valley, OH

"We were blessed and stretched by the insights Phil had to share. Not only is he a great thinker and presenter, but he is also a good guy." -- Pastor Tim Meadows, The Community Church at Tellico Church, Loudon, TN

“Phil has helped to move Calvary to a welcoming and affirming place in a way it hasn't been. Calvary has for years been welcoming and affirming in practice but not in policy. We're now changing this and moving forward. We experienced sacred and inspired moments that were filled with great LIGHT on Sunday with Phil. For this we will forever be grateful. The course of Calvary's history took a monumental turn.” --Pastor Brian Henderson, Calvary Baptist Church, Denver, CO

“We at Eastgate really enjoyed Phil’s talk on January 13th! His engaging personality and sense of humor helps convey his message that we are called to examine our personal beliefs as we all continue on our faith journey. Everyone who came was uplifted and challenged at the same time! We hope other churches will consider inviting him to speak so they can hear Phil’s inspiring and challenging words.” -- Pastor Tod Iseninger, Eastgate Christian Church, Indianapolis IN

“Although we had invited Philip Gulley to be our guest, it felt as if the roles were reversed. Through his casual and down-to-earth speaking style, Philip became the gracious host and the audience his esteemed guests. His insights are filled with deep wisdom and his craft of storytelling is phenomenal!” --Rev. Phil Myers, First Reformed United Church of Christ, Burlington NC

“Phil was a delight - clearly a man who walks the walk as well as talks the talk. Our participants enjoyed their time with him and he was eminently accessible-- spending time with folks throughout the weekend.” -- Sue Tannehill, clerk of Ministry and Counsel for Buffalo Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting (Quakers)

“Everyone loved Philip’s worship services AND his lectures for our opening week of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly's 2013 summer program season. Philip got us off to a great start, setting a high bar for programming and an inspiring tone of open and loving spirituality for our worship and fellowship as we reconvened for another eight-week season in this summer community.”-- Lisa Hammett, Platform Superintendent/Planner, Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, Monteagle TN

“We asked Phil Gulley to come talk to us about his vision of the “Quaker Way,” as well as a few stories and a sermon, as if the first weren’t enough. His two days with us was all we had hoped for and more. Phil has an ability to engage as if the conversation were one on one; to speak humbly and humorously, yet deliver a call out of complacency; to vividly describe through anecdotes his vision of what God calls us to be. Phil Gulley, as a speaker, is both a joy and a challenge, with each gift complementing the other. Whether by story or by sermon or by another path, Phil opens us to consider what more, or what else, God may call us to do. – Lawrence Ross, clerk of Greensboro Monthly Meeting (First Friends), North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Quaker).