



Brad Johnson for Assistant Treasurer

I became a member of All Souls Church and joined the All Souls Choir in 2016. I first came to All Souls at the behest of my wife Vanessa, who nervously suggested trying out the church amid the grief of the terrorist and police violence against Black and LGBTQIA+ Americans in the summer of 2016. The child care for our-then 1-year-old, the transcendent music, the wise sermons on love and justice, and the beckoning community lifted our souls. Vanessa is an active Religious Education volunteer, and we now have two sons

who look forward to their Sunday mornings at church, which is quite something for a pair of atheists.

Why I'm Running

As an active member of the choir, I was shocked by the departure of our music directors, as it seemed the church was returning to strength and joy after years of tumult. The departure of other staff was further troubling. I recognized I have a responsibility to not simply participate in church activities but to understand and participate in governance, in the spirit of the Fifth Principle. I discovered the deep work of many committed members of All Souls, but also systemic and long-running issues that have not been properly addressed, in both the literal and metaphorical structure of the church. Weaknesses in our governance structure and the relationship between congregation and ministry played a role in the deep conflict with Rev. Newman-Moore and Rev. Hardies. Some of those weaknesses were addressed, but others deepened. The pandemic, while bringing those who stayed connected to the church closer, severely weakened other important bonds.

I believe it is crucial in the coming years as we continue as a church without a called minister that we are honest about our roles and responsibilities, our strengths and weaknesses, and hold each other accountable to our shared mission. I am committed to congregational polity and democratic self-governance. I am inspired every day by the love, commitment, and wisdom of the members of All Souls with whom I have been in deep conversation these past few weeks.

I'm seeking to be assistant treasurer in the spirit of personal responsibility, accountability, and love. I pledge to be diligent in the duties of the office, including properly managing the count of the plate, assisting the treasurer, and serving on the finance committee and Church Council.