

December 1, 2025

Dear Members of All Souls,

In the attached report, the Nominating Committee is pleased to submit its nominations for the All Souls Board of Trustees, Clerk of the Society, and Deacons for election at the 207th Annual Meeting of the Society to be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026. In addition, background information about each of the five candidates for the Board of Trustees is attached.

The three candidates for the Board of Trustees receiving the highest number of votes from eligible members of the congregation will be elected to serve three-year terms. The Clerk of the Society is elected by ballot for a one-year term. Deacons are elected by acclamation for one-year terms, with the names in the Nominating Committee's report added to the existing roster of deacons. Further information will be disseminated ahead of the meeting.

The Board of Trustees is grateful to the Nominating Committee for submitting an excellent slate of candidates.

Pursuant to Article XIII of the Society's By-laws, "[a]dditional nominations for the Board or Deacon or Clerk may be made, with the consent of the nominee, by written petition signed by twenty-five qualified voters and filed with the Secretary of the Society prior to December 15[.]" Accompanying any petition nominating a candidate for the Board of Trustees must be a statement containing "the offices and committee assignments the nominee has held in the Society and in organizations affiliated with the Society, and the number of years the nominee has been a member of the Society." Additional nominations and supporting materials may be sent to the Secretary of the Society by the deadline at erikamik@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Erika Mikkelsen Halford
Secretary of the Society

All Souls Nominating Committee Recommendations

From: James Backmon
To: Richard Esposito, Erika Mikkelsen Halford
Date: Friday, November 21, 2025

Dear All Souls Board of Trustees,

The following individuals are nominated for the All Souls Board of Trustees:
Liz Andrews, Dixie Goss, Bruce Knotts, Ben Yandell, and Li Yu.

Jennifer Vermont-Davis is nominated for the position of Clerk of the Society.

The current members of the deacons are renominated.

The following people are newly nominated to serve as deacons: Jane Colvin, Richard Esposito, Don Gogel, Georgia Wall Gogel, Dixie Goss, Stephen Lash, Matthew Singh, and Gus Young.

Respectfully Submitted,

All Souls Nominating Committee

James Backmon, Chair
Judith Moldover, Member
Cherie Henderson, Member
Lynne Randall, Member
Christine Goodwin, Member

James Backmon
Founding Director

New Amsterdam Choir
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New York, NY, 10029
Phone: 646-423-3403
Fax: 347-704-8720

www.nabgc.org

Board Candidates 2026



Liz Andrews

Name	Liz Andrews
First year of membership	2022 unofficially (Officially 2025)
All Souls Activities	Religious Education volunteering
Current or Recent Occupation	Data Manager

Personal statement:

As a member of the All Souls community for just over 3 years, I feel blessed for what the church has given me. I have felt welcomed by many members and made friendships that have made my life richer. I have also been learning about church history, and developed an understanding of both our strengths and areas we can work on. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to give back by joining the board, especially at this tumultuous time, with so many opportunities before us. I bring professional experience in database management, analysis, and writing reports that would serve our church's administrative needs. However, I believe my greatest qualification is my commitment to mindful decision-making, and truly considering all sides of an issue to ensure all voices are heard and valued. My priorities include fostering a diverse and intergenerational community, maintaining sound financial stewardship, and creating spaces where everyone feels equally welcome. I envision our church as a beacon of hope and support

for our broader community, as well as a place for companionship, live music and delicious pastries. I have demonstrated my dedication through volunteering with the religious education program, supporting my husband who is a volunteer member of the choir, and I am in the process of starting a new chapter of Navigator scouts here at the church where the organization began. These experiences, in addition to years of church attention and countless coffee hours, have prepared me to collaborate effectively with fellow board members and maintain focus on our church's mission. I realize I still have much to learn and room to grow in this community, so I approach this nomination with humility, and if I do join the board, I'll perform my duties with thoughtful consideration and a spirit of unity. I would be honored to contribute to the future of our church family and help guide our congregation toward a bright future.



Dixie Goss

Name	Dixie J. Goss
First year of membership	1988
All Souls Activities	Monday Night Hospitality, Women's Alliance, Reader for Stories with Soul, Provided benefit dinner for Heart and Soul Auction, host for congregational dinner, Board of Trustees, host for Heart and Soul Wine tasting
Current or Recent Occupation	Professor and Endowed Scholar, Chemistry Dept Hunter College CUNY; member of Chancellor's University-wide Select Faculty Committee (oversees grievances related to tenure, non-reappointment, etc.), National Institute of Health Research Ethics committee; grant review panels for NIH and NSF; past Chair of Chemistry Department; past Chair of Research Committee and member of Board of Directors American Heart Association; faculty representative to CUNY Research Foundation Board of Directors

Personal statement:

I grew up in rural Nebraska and my family was not religious. We didn't attend church, Sunday school, or Bible camp. As unusual as this was in the 1950's and 1960's Midwest, we didn't feel left out and in fact felt very much a part of the community. Later, while in college, I attended a very liberal Methodist Church and enjoyed the sermons and community action, but always had difficulty with some of the theology. I couldn't really believe the Apostle's creed, for example.

In 1984, I separated from my then husband and moved to New York City to take a faculty position at Hunter College. I didn't know anyone in the city and very soon decided I needed to find some sort of community. I tried several churches and they just didn't fit. Other social activities, while fun, didn't satisfy my intellectual need to explore my beliefs. I didn't know anything about the Unitarian Church, but as is often the case, I learned by listening to my students. I was teaching an evening class and several students asked to leave early to attend a lecture. It was Carl Sagan speaking about Nuclear Winter at All Souls. I tagged along and during the lecture saw an Order of Service from the previous Sunday. After reading the back (Deeds not creeds, etc.), I decided I had to give this place a try. I've been attending ever since. All Souls has been a tremendous source of support, I met and married my husband here, and I continue to find joy, encouragement, support and a caring community. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Trustees as together we build our community, socially and spiritually, and maintain a strong All Souls for many years to come.



Bruce Knotts

Name	Bruce Knotts
First year of membership	2007
All Souls Activities	UUUNO Spring Seminar events
Current or Recent Occupation	President and CEO NGO Committee on Disarmament Peace and Security

Personal statement:

I hope to enforce and support All Souls mission as a Justice Congregation that supports justice for LGBTIQ+ people, racial justice, gender justice, democratic governance, and care for those in need.



Ben Yandell

Name	Ben Yandell
First year of membership	2019
All Souls Activities	Board member of Heart and Soul Charitable Fund Member Men's Spirituality Group
Current or Recent Occupation	Commodity Trader and Broker

Personal statement:

I grew up on a farm in Mississippi. After graduating from the University of Virginia (B. A. Economics) in 1976, I moved to New York to get my M. B. A. from Columbia University in 1980. I have lived in New York ever since. I have spent most of my adult life as a commodity trader and broker. Kim Calder first brought me to All Souls in 2018. I signed the book in 2019, and we were married in 2021. All Souls has become my spiritual home.

I have had a lot of joy and success in my life (and of course, plenty of sadness), and I have now entered the stage where it is time for me to give something back. I can think of no better place to devote my time and energy than the board of All Souls. Let me be clear. I think the current board is doing a very good job. I am not running because of a sense of disappointment or dissatisfaction with the current board. It is no secret that the past two years at All Souls have been somewhat chaotic. Volunteerism is down. We need to continue to listen to each other. We need to heal. I will work in whatever capacity I can to help our congregation heal.

Recently, All Souls, under the leadership of Rev. Elaine, began Listening Sessions. I attended one, and I hope to attend more. I would like to see this type of exercise expanded to become a permanent, core part of the All Souls experience. They can and will be a means of helping us heal. I will encourage all members to voice their opinions in a constructive, respectful manner.



Li Yu

Name	Li Yu
First year of membership	2004
All Souls activities	Trustee (2023-present and 2013 – 2019 (President of the Society in 2018)); Worship associate (current); and RE teacher (2005–2014 & 2021).
Current or Recent Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP (current)• Partner, DiCello Levitt LLP (2023-2025)• Enforcement counsel at FINRA (2022-2023).• Senior Counsel (Dem. Staff) at the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (2021–2022).• Assistant U.S. Attorney and Senior Counsel to the Civil Frauds Unit at the Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney’s Office (2007–2021).• Associate at WilmerHale (2005–2007).• Law Clerk for U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein (2004).• Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell (2002–2003).

Personal Statement:

All Souls made important strides to the future over the past year.

I believe it is critical for All Souls to have successful transition and search processes in the coming years. At the same time, the work of building community and service to continue, especially in this deeply challenging time.

Achieving a successful transition – and balancing our hopes for the future with the need to focus on the present – will require effort from the whole congregation. I hope to continue my service as a trustee to be part of that effort.

All Souls' Deacons as of November 2025

Sabrina Alano	Sahm Forbes	Winnie Olsen
David Andrews	Linda Frank (Emeritus)	Neil Osborne
James Backmon	Jeff Friedlander	Laura Pedersen
Astrid Baumgardner	Marjory Friedlander	Kate Phillips
Bill Bechman	Mary Geissman	David Poppe
Christina Bellamy	Christine Goodwin	Guy Quinlan
Kevin Billet	Peter Green	John Reidy
Heli Blum	Pamela Healey (Emeritus)	Larry Reina
Tom Blum	Alice Heminway	Maria Reina
Robin Bossert	Cherie Henderson	Fritz Reuter
Anne Bradley	Mary-Ella Holst	David Rockefeller
Julie Brannan	Arthur Hopkirk	Linda Rousseau
Louise Brockett	Barbara Hosein	Judy Samuelson
Miles Chapin	Carolyn Jackson	Eric Sivin
Lois Coleman	Deborah Jackson	Ramsey Shehadeh
Marilyn Collins	Michelle Jawin	Karen Steele
John Conti	Tim Kelley	Paula Stelzner
Dan Cryer	Carol Kirkman	Deborah Taylor
Sheila Darnborough	Jane Levenson	Kathleen Taylor
Robert Dottin	Judith Moldover	Pat Taylor
Holly Drew	James Moskin	Jennifer Vermont-Davis
Heidi DuBois	Linda Moskin	Hanan Watson
Sandra Ekberg	Dan Newcomb	Miday Wilkey
Carol Emmerling	Melanie Niemiec	Li Yu
Victor Fidel	Nancy Northup	Rachel Ziemba
Sandra Fisher		