From: Ken Nahigian
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990 Rules - Please remove religious bias
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:03:48 PM

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: Christie A. Preston

Under current regulations, the IRS requires non-profit groups to report annual gross income, disbursements and other tax information via the Form 990 informational return. By the IRS's own estimate, this requirement amounts to a burden of over 25 million man-hours. Yet federal law exempts churches and religious groups from this onerous requirement. Such organizations need not even send a notice to the IRS that they are claiming a 990 filing exemption! The discrepancy reduces the fiscal transparency and accountability of churches, represents an unequal treatment of secular non-profits, and equates to government favoritism toward religion.

As a citizen with deep respect for the First Amendment, and treasurer for a secular 501(c)(3) organization required to file a Form 990 each year, I feel harmed by this discrepancy. I ask the IRS to limit the broad exemption granted to churches, to enforce the same oversight rules for religious groups as for 501(c)(3) organizations. At the very minimum, please require church entities claiming a Form 990 Exemption to inform the IRS of this via a formal letter or prescribed form. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Kenneth E. Nahigian
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