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| **From:** | Xander Addison |
| **To:** | Preston Christie A |
| **Subject:** | Form 990 - Written Public Comment - "Middle of the Road" |
| **Date:** | Saturday, September 12, 2015 4:29:56 PM |

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Christine,

Sadly, there are religious organizations that have become too much like corporations.

Controls and guidelines need to be put into places to ensure that moneys received as donations are put to **true** good use.

While I do not support stripping all benefits from churches that are providing value to the community or even just their own members in an equitable way based on need. I think it has become too large and costly of a task for the Government to be in the business of enforcing so we should just modify things a little to make them more black and white and self-policing will be possible.

Caps must be placed on both the donation side/revenue side and the spend side for an organization to maintain tax exempt status. If a church pastor for example begins receiving compensation of more than several hundred thousand dollars then that organization can start paying taxes. Or lives in a mansion provided at no cost and the value of that property exceeds a limit of a couple million for example then perhaps tax is due on that benefit based on the property value and comparable rent in the area. If it is discovered that they have not calculated and paid that tax/fee then they loose their status for good.

If the org's real property holdings extend beyond say 2 locations or the locations are not used for worship or education or for providing food or shelter to the poor or homeless then they are no longer exempt. If that is too strict then maybe the offending properties must have P/L statements submitted along with their use and a fee associated for non-exempt properties with the same penalty as above.

Churches that are really not operating as Churches as their primary focus and are established to promote a legal or political agenda and spend money to promote that agenda publicly in anyway should not be tax exempt. Sharing the news of your organization should not entail renting large billboards or sponsoring commercial events or donating to candidates or lobbying etc. There is too much analysis required to police this. It needs to become binary. The organization does not donate to anywhere other than other legally recognized non-profits or directly to people in need. Those people and orgs must be on file and available should audit be required. If that is true then they maintain status if not then they must become taxed organization. This will not impact Churches that do good for the communities they serve and over time will make it easier to weed out the ones that do not. The ones in the middle will be forced to choose.

Churches that end up converting to organizations and loose their status represent a tremendous tax income potential. That collected revenue will help reduce the burden to balance the budget or allow the Government to provide for people in need. It's not right that the ideas of Religion that were intended to be protected but separate be allowed to contribute to class inequality or become a financial gain or benefit to some. That's not what was intended by "protecting religion". Limits on

salaries, pensions etc will help organizations determine their fee burden if they go over in one of these categories making it fair and allowing them to keep the exempt status for the majority of the good they do. By setting it up this way you are incenting those in religion positions of leadership to stay true to doing good for their communities. Others will loose interest when they can't benefit and go away.

Thanks,
Xander Addison