From:	Bob Conroy
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	comments related to Form 990
Date:	Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:55:42 PM

Ms. Preston,

Currently the IRS provides unequal treatment to secular non-profits. Please limit the broad exemption granted to churches. Churches and religious organizations currently do not have to send a notice to the IRS that they are claiming a 990 filing exemption. Any group that claims it is religious avoids all public transparency and accountability.

This is precisely the type of lack of oversight that allows for widespread abuse, preying upon vulnerable populations, and fraud. Please stop giving special benefits to churches at public expense. All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse an atheist position, or a religious position. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with, or lose their exemption. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures. The privilege of not being taxed must come with some measures of accountability.

Please make churches conform to the same IRS requirements as all other 501(c)(3) groups. At a minimum, the IRS should require any organizations that claim to be religious organizations, to file an annual notice with the IRS that they are claiming tax exemption.

Thank you,
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