From:	Karl Wiegers
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Comments concerning Form 990
Date:	Sunday, September 13, 2015 11:43:51 AM

Dear Ms. Preston:

I am writing to strongly encourage the IRS to treat all non-profit organizations equally with regard to filing forms with the IRS regarding their tax-exempt status and disclosure of their finances. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements that all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with to retain their exemption. The privilege of not being taxed must come with some measures of accountability. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups including churches, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures.

Please make churches conform to the same IRS requirements with which all other 501(c)(3) groups must comply. At a minimum, the IRS should require all organizations that claim to be religious in nature to file an annual notice with the IRS that they are claiming tax exemption and to justify this claim.

It is only through this sort of visibility and accountability that the American public can be confident that tax-exempt status is being granted legitimately and fairly to deserving organizations that follow all of the rules. Secular organizations must follow IRS regulations; religious organizations should as well.

Thank you.
Karl E. Wiegers, PhD
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