From:	Ed Allan
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Supporting Expansion of Form 990 Collection to include churches, synagogues, etc.
Date:	Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:47:52 PM

Dear Ms Preston,

I strongly support the expansion of collection of Form 990 to include currently exempt religious organizations.

There is no valid reason why churches, temples, synagogues, ashrams, mosques, etc. have been exempt for so long in the first place, and calling for them to disclose the amounts they take in, the amounts they pay their leadership, and the amounts they spend on other activities. Although massive amounts of cash and services are involved, there is currently no accountability, either to the public at large or to contributors (who take charitable deductions). The usual arguments against even minimal accountability don't apply -- filing a 990 entails no involvement with internal organization, content, soundness of spending decisions, etc.

Incidentally, I am surprised at the estimate of 63 hours 47 minutes per respondent. Although obviously 501(c)(3) organizations vary tremendously in size and complexity, most of the narrative information on the 990 form should vary only trivially from one year to the next, and it seems to me that the financial information should be pretty readily available from the routine accounting information that even a teeny organization should be keeping on an Excel spreadsheet anyhow.

Sincerely,

Edward Jay Allan
32 Milford St.
Boston, Mass. 02118
617-426-7663
edwardjayallan@gmail.com