From: A R Thurman
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Church exemption from form 990 reporting requirements
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 2:22:14 PM

Dear Ms. Preston

I am writing concerning possible modification of IRS Form 990 reporting requirements to remove the reporting exemption for religious non-profit organizations. I am of the opinion that removing the exemption is long overdue, and I emphatically support repealing the exemption.

I recognize that one of the reasons for the reporting requirement is to aid in determining the bona fides of ostensibly charitable non-profits, and that to question the actual status of entities claiming to be churches immediately raises Constitutional First Amendment issues. However, I believe these issues can be obviated.

As is the present policy, the IRS need not challenge the claim of taxation exemption for religious organizations. But the agency can make the Form 990 returns available as public records. Let the members, and potential members, of these organizations judge for themselves whether these entities are worthy of their support.

I have always believed that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and requiring all such entities to report would be a great way to spread a little sunlight on their operations.

Sincerely,

A. Robert Thurman
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"Anyone who believes exponential growth
can go on forever in a finite world is either
a madman or an economist." Kenneth E. Boulding