From: John Wolfer
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Comments on Form 990
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:21:13 PM

Greetings,

As per your request for comments regarding the IRS form 990 and related schedules. It is my contention and that of many others, that religious organizations have no special constitutional right to exemption from taxes, and that granting them such exemptions to filing the same tax forms as other "non-profits" is in violation of the 1st amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Please Note:

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 for your consideration.

Regards,

John D. Wolfer
Venice, FL