From: Steve Singkofer
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Comment on IRS Form 990
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:18:23 PM

Dear Ms. Preston –

I am writing to comment on Form 990 as it regards religious non-profit organizations.

For far too long, churches and religious organizations have been exempt from basic information gathering – which I'm sure they would view as interference – by the Internal Revenue Service and other governmental entities.

Secular and religious non-profit organizations should be treated equally. To do otherwise implies that religious organizations are somehow better than, and should therefore have privileges than, secular non-profit organizations. This privileged treatment must end. If churches and other religious organizations refuse to comply with the minimal requirements that all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with, they should lose their exemption. That's what would happen to secular non-profit organizations.

As taxpayers, we have a right to know which organizations are exempt from taxation and which are not. 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.

Steve Singkofer
Tucson, AZ