From: Tim Hale
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: AGAINST: Special treatment for religious organizations
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:36:02 PM

Hello,

As a US citizen and taxpayer, I am concerned that religious groups such as churches are receiving special treatment when it comes to IRS requirements. I believe that 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.

I am also concerned that many religious organizations, especially pastors who spend millions of dollars on planes, palatial residences, jewelry, etc, and megachurches with bowling alleys, big gymasiums, rental properties and investments, etc. are abusing the tax system and should be taxed as the corporations they really are. Non-religious non profits organizations would never be allowed to get away with these obvious tax evasions.

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.

Regards,
Tim Hale

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