From:	Rich
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Form 990 comment
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 2:37:11 PM

Hello Ms. Preston,

I found out about this issue via the Freedom From Religion Foundation on facebook [https://www.facebook.com/4ffrf/posts/10153766050664728]. Please note that I am **not** actually a member of FFRF, but I do closely and regularly follow their posts on facebook. I am sending this email because they made me aware of this issue, but **not** because they told me to do anything. This is simply a cause which I personally believe strongly in as, for me, it falls within the purview of "separation of church and state." Churches should be taxed and held accountable financially just like any other organization according to the law with no special privileges allowed. By **not** holding churches financially accountable, it is too easy to potentially abuse the system for personal financial gain, especially by any persons deeply integrated in or reliant in any way upon the financial affairs of any church.

The following is copied and pasted from FFRF's suggested content [http://ffrf.org/news/action/item/23948-ask-irs-to-stop-favoring-churches-over-other-non-profits], which they put a lot of time and thought into composing and which is good enough for me...

- 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.
- See more at: http://ffrf.org/news/action/item/23948-ask-irs-to-stop-favoring-churches-over-other-non-profits#sthash.UAqTTxJv.nL3IhgMj.dpuf

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Richard Gerber
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