From: Sam Stubblefield
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990 exemptions for religious institutions
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:20:46 PM

I am writing to strongly encourage the IRS to remove the exemption of religious organizations from the requirement of filing form 990s. Form 990s are integral in ensuring transparency and honesty in the privileged organizations who have non-profit status.

There have been multiple reports in the popular media of churches and their representatives behaving poorly. Consider the examples of Jimmy Swaggart, the Bakers, and Reverend Dollar, who, while breaking no laws, requested $60M for the purchase of a private jet. A 990 from Reverend Dollar's organization would help his potential donors better understand the pressing needs behind this request. Requiring filing of a 990 would lend transparency to the multi-billion dollar enterprise of tax-exempt religious institutions, would help uncover malfeasance more easily, and possibly discourage bad behavior. While completing 990s would be a burden on these religious organizations, we expect this effort from other non-profits. For the sake of basic fairness, 990s should be required from all other 501(c)(3) groups.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter

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