From: Daniel Lai
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990 Filling Exemption for Churches
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015 11:06:02 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the 990 filing exemption of Churches and religious organizations. I also urge the IRS to withdraw such privilege. Not only is this exemption unfair to other non-profit organizations, it allows religious organizations to avoids all public transparency and accountability that can potentially lead to fraud and abuse or power.

My request consists of the following:
1. 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.

2. 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 allowing me to express my comments.

Best,
Daniel