From: Nancy E
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Comments on Form 990
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I was shocked to learn that churches and religious groups are exempted from filing Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. I assumed that this return, which requires non-profits report annual gross income, disbursements and other tax information to the IRS and to the public which subsidizes these exemptions, was required of all non-profits. As the IRS well knows, lack of transparency encourages abuse. This lack of oversight (at public expense) should be corrected by the IRS immediately.

Allowing any organization that claims it is religious to avoid public transparency and accountability amounts to favoritism and is discriminatory toward non-church groups. Religious groups by their very nature should be more than willing to be open and above board when requesting special favors from the public. What is getting lost in current IRS policy regarding the filing of Form 990 is that the public subsidizes these exemptions. We have a right to know whether or not a "church" or "religious organization" actually qualifies for an exemption. No oversight of these organizations encourages fraud and abuse.

This practice by the IRS is clearly discriminatory and in fairness to all, it must end. Any oversight of 501(c)(3) must be equally enforced against religious organizations.

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