From:	Jessica Fishell
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Form 990 Comment
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 4:58:40 PM

Hello,

I am in favor of amending Form 990 requirement as they pertain to churches and religious organizations to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all 501(c)(3) organizations.

Our Constitution calls for the separation of Church and State, as is necessary for a truly free and independent country. In a sincerely secular government by the People and for the People (ALL people), all nonprofit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of their religious or secular position. The currently lax Form 990 requirements for churches amounts to government favoritism towards religious organizations.

The privilege of not being taxed as a 501(c)(3) must come with some measures of accountability. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements with which all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures. 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, just like everyone else.

Thank you,
Jessica Fishell
Phoenix, AZ