From: John Michael Strubhart
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Tax Status of Churches
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 5:02:50 PM

Dear Ms. Preston,

I am writing with a concern about the tax status of churches in the United States. It is my understanding that churches do no have to file for status as a charity or report their gross income and distributions of that income. While I don't ask the IRS tax the churches (although I actually think that they should as they operate like businesses), I do sincerely expect that they report their income to the IRS and the public.

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.

Respectfully,

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