From:	Eric Stauss
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Treat everyone fairly, no special reporting and exemptions for churches please
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- It is grossly unfair that churches are exempt from taxes. Churches are as self-serving to their membership as any athletic club or other non-religious organization, and should be required to make a similar contribution to society at large. They use the same streets, utilities, legal system, national defense system, police and fire forces, and should have to contribute their fair share.
- 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

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