From: Rose Priven
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990--Solicited public comment
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:51:54 PM

Dear Christie Preston,

I am a U. S. citizen and have been a tax payer for more than fifty years. Even when I was a member of a church I thought it was wrong for the government to support churches by making them tax exempt. The presumption seems to be that churches provide laudatory public services. It seems to me that the greatest public service some churches provide is keeping us elderly people off the streets and out of trouble on Sunday mornings. If churches actually do provide valuable public services such as housing the homeless, feeding the hungry and caring for the sick, it is reasonable that the funds they use for those commendable services should be tax free. It seems reasonable to me that churches and religious organizations should have to show the IRS what percentage of their money is spent on these services and then pay regular taxes on the rest. This brings me to Form 990. Unless, churches are required to file form 990 yearly with the IRS, there is no way for the IRS to determine whether or not an organization claiming to be a religious organization actually carries out religious activities. And the IRS certainly cannot determine whether or not these groups are providing services for which they deserve tax exempt status. I fail to understand how the government can justify making all other 501c organizations file yearly form 990's but not requiring churches and other religious organizations to do so. I am against unfair discrimination of all sorts and to penalize non-religious 501c organizations by making them file the onerous form 990 while exempting so called religious organizations is unfair.

Sincerely,

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