From:	Ron
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Please treat churches the same as other non-profits
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 7:49:12 PM

Dear Ms. Preston:

Surely you recognize that the system of privileges for non-profit corporations and churches needs revision.

The system was intended to encourage donations to organizations that benefit our country. Careful oversight is needed of all these groups, lest they defraud their donors and the public. As you know, having a charitable-sounding name is not enough to guarantee legitimacy. Nor is a simple designation as a church, since there are thousands of denominations in the U.S., and no doubt many of them provide no real benefit to the greater community. In fact, as I believe, most deal in myth and superstition, preying on gullible – often poor – people making false promises to them to collect mass sums of money for very questionable benefit to the donors. Meanwhile church leaders live a life of luxury – with little or no oversight of their accounting or value. In short, anyone can claim any crazy religious dogma and entice believers for profit. (John Oliver recently did an outrageous expose of church tax abuse; I hope you see it.)

Therefore, I implore you to be sure that any IRS oversight of 501(c)(3) organizations must be equally enforced against religious organizations, and that the IRS should, at the very minimum, require churches to file the 990 form. Also, please make it easier for valid groups who serve their communities to file clear and accurate reports.

Thank you for your service.

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