

# BENBING

Federal, state, and other reporting made easy.



by Dan Busby Michael Martin John Van Drunen



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Beginning with the 2010 edition, John co-authored the *Zondervan Minister's Tax & Financial Guide* and the *Zondervan Church and Nonprofit Tax & Financial Guide* with Dan Busby and Michael Martin.

# **Contents**

Recent Developments	3
Key Federal Tax Limits, Rates and Other Data	6
Charitable Gift Reporting	7
Reporting as an Employer	24
Information Reporting Requirements.	44
2017 Filing Dates	52
Citations	53
Index	54

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information regarding the subject matter covered. The text has been significantly excerpted from the *Zondervan Church and Nonprofit Tax & Financial Guide*, 2017 edition. It is distributed with the understanding that neither the publisher nor the authors are engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought.

Every effort has been made to make the materials in this text current as of the date of publication. Federal tax law, however, is subject to change. Congress can modify the law as it has on numerous occasions over the years. Also, court decisions and IRS rulings can significantly affect the application of federal tax laws. Such changes may affect the accuracy of this publication.

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## Recent Developments

----Churches and nonprofit organizations continue to be faced with a plethora of tax and finance developments. A summary of some of the more significant developments follow (see the "In the News" page at ECFA.org for current updates on these issues and much more):

**Judge blocks new overtime rule.** The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) final overtime rule, updating the salary threshold required for the executive, administrative, and professional ("white collar") exemption available under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), was scheduled to be effective December 1, 2016. This rule would have raised the salary threshold from \$455 per week (\$23,660 for a full-year worker) to \$913 per week (\$47,476 for a full-year worker), effective December 1, 2016. Such a substantial increase could have potentially imposed significant financial burdens on churches and ministries.

A federal judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas blocked the DOL's new overtime rule. Judge Amos Mazzant ruled, on November 22, 2016, that the DOL exceeded its legal authority in implementing the new rule.

For now, churches may continue to follow the existing overtime rules. The injunction applies until Judge Mazzant issues a full ruling on the validity of the new pay regulations. If he rules that the new overtime rule is invalid, the decision could be appealed to a higher court, although this appears to be unlikely.

It is important for churches to remain attentive to the existing overtime rules. This is an excellent opportunity to examine and update pay practices, ensure legal compliance, and address employment compensation matters.

**Health care reform.** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), passed by Congress in 2010, overhauled the nation's health care industry and has brought with it numerous changes to the tax code. The following is a summary of major ACA changes impacting churches and nonprofits:

- Employer shared responsibility provision ("employer mandate"). The ACA's employer shared responsibility provision ("employer mandate") applies to churches and nonprofits with 50 or more full-time equivalent employees (FTEs), effective 2015. Employers with 50 to 99 FTEs had to fulfill their reporting obligations beginning in 2015; however, they have until 2016 to comply with the coverage requirements or pay tax penalties. For employers with 100 or more FTEs, the mandate became effective in 2015, but employers that qualified for transition relief rules were only required to provide coverage to 70% (instead of 95%) of their FTEs in 2015. The definition of "full-time" also remains at an average of 30 hours per week or more under the final regulations.
- Health FSAs limits. Health FSAs have traditionally been subject to a "use-or-lose" rule, under which employees must forfeit any remaining FSA amounts that are not used up during the plan year. Additionally, health FSAs are subject to a \$2,500 annual limit indexed for inflation due to health care reform (\$2,550 limit for 2016). Employers sponsoring health FSAs have the option of amending their written plans to allow employees to carry over up to \$500 of unused amounts remaining at the end of a plan year to the immediately following plan year, subject to certain limitations. The carryover does not otherwise affect the annual limit on FSAs.

Legislation would provide for stand-alone health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs). The 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 34) was recently passed by both houses of congress and are anticipated to be signed into law by the president. Among other things this bill provides an exemption from ACA changes made in recent years that all but eliminated HRAs. If this bill does in fact become law, small employers with 50 employees or less, that do not offer group health insurance, may be able to offer HRAs to employees. There is an prescribed cap of \$4,950 per employee (\$10,000 if the arrangement also provides for family members). Such arrangements are anticipated to require disclosure of its existence by employees to health insurance exchanges and will also be reportable as taxable compensation on Form W-2. Employers interested in such plans should stay tuned for finalization of this law in 2016 and any potential related regulations that may come in 2017.

For more information, see the 5 Roads for Healthcare Reimbursement by Churches and Ministries on the ECFA website.

Contraception mandate. After several years and a growing number of court challenges, concerns continue over the health care law's so-called "contraception mandate." Churches, church-related organizations, and religious orders that provide health insurance policies for their employees have been granted a complete exemption from this mandate, while religious nonprofit employers have only been afforded a lesser accommodation. Meanwhile, for-profit employers with religious or moral objections to the required contraceptive coverage had not been given any relief from the mandate by the federal government.

In June 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its highly anticipated decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Stores, Inc.*, ruling that the contraception mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as applied to two closely-held businesses owned by Christian families with religious objections to providing the mandated abortifacient drugs. In response to the Hobby Lobby decision and other developments, the government crafted additional relief for closely-held corporations and alternative procedures for nonprofits requesting an accommodation.

**Housing benefits for ministers are back under attack.** Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) has filed a new lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the ministers' housing exclusion.

Under current law (Internal Revenue Code, § 107), qualified ministers may exclude from income tax, within certain limits, the rental value of church-provided housing or housing allowances for ministers owning or renting their homes. FFRF charges the law unconstitutionally provides "preferential and discriminatory tax benefits" and violates equal protection principles.

This attack on the housing exclusion is just the latest attempt by FFRF, a group which describes itself as a promoter of nontheism and separation between religion and government. In 2014, a U.S. Appeals Court denied a similar challenge by FFRF on the procedural ground of standing.

The court concluded FFRF could not proceed with its case at the time because its leadership had not suffered any "concrete and particularized" injury. In other words, FFRF could not sue because its leaders were never actually denied the benefit of a housing allowance from the IRS. The court went on to suggest, though, FFRF may have standing if its leaders were to pay income taxes on a designated housing allowance, claim a refund from the IRS, and then sue if the IRS rejected or failed to act upon their claims.

According to the latest court filings, FFRF appears to have followed the appeals court's roadmap in bringing this suit. It claims standing is now met because its leaders have paid taxes on designated housing allowances and been denied refunds after requesting them from the IRS.

Interestingly, the federal government—who has the responsibility for defending this provision of the tax code—conceded in its first filing in the case that, based on its understanding of the facts, FFRF has the legal standing required to challenge the housing allowance exclusion (while maintaining there is no standing to challenge the exclusion for parsonages). While this is simply a procedural update—there has been no decision by the court on the merits—it is an important one. FFRF's previous attack on the housing allowance was ultimately rejected by the appeals court based on standing.

With standing now conceded by the federal government in this case, this removes an important barrier to allowing FFRF to proceed for the time being with its latest challenge to the housing allowance at the federal district court level.

What is the immediate impact for ministers and churches? This lawsuit is still in the early stages. The mere filing of the case and initial briefs by the parties do not have any effect on ministers who are eligible for the housing exclusion under current law.

**IRS** audits of churches. A court settlement between the IRS and the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) in a case regarding church political activity has shifted focus back to the issue of IRS audits of churches. The IRS began the process over five years ago of adopting updated procedures for auditing churches, but has failed to publicly announce the results. This left many, including FFRF, to wonder if the IRS was actively auditing churches for federal income tax compliance.

FFRF agreed to drop its case after the IRS disclosed procedures it had developed behind closed doors for auditing houses of worship, along with an indication that nearly 100 churches are possible targets for future IRS examinations based on concerns surrounding their political activity. At the same time, ECFA has also observed an uptick in the number of IRS payroll tax audits of churches and other ministries prompted by health care reform.

This settlement between the IRS and FFRF does not mark the end to disputes over church political activity. The recommendations of the Commission on Accountability and Policy for Religious Organizations (report issued in 2013) remains a balanced approach to this issue of constitutional significance to thousands of churches across the U.S.

**CHARITY Act introduced in U.S. Senate with bipartisan support.** Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) have introduced the Charities Helping Americans Regularly Throughout the Year Act (CHARITY Act).

The bill begins by expressing support for nonprofits and charitable giving and states the charitable contribution deduction should be protected as Congress contemplates future tax reform efforts.

If enacted, other provisions of the legislation include making donor advised funds eligible for the IRA charitable rollover, requiring all Form 990 filers to do so electronically regardless of size, and allowing the charitable mileage rate fixed by Congress at 14 cents per mile since 1997 to be indexed annually for inflation by the Treasury Department similar to the business and medical/moving rates.

**House bill would expand IRA charitable rollover to include donor advised funds.** The "Grow Philanthropy Act" (H.R. 4907) would amend current law to allow distributions to donor advised funds to qualify for the tax-favored IRA charitable rollover.

The bipartisan bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives back in April and was recently discussed at a hearing of the Ways and Means Committee.

Lawmakers push back against donor disclosure with proposed legislation. Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that, if passed and signed into law, would eliminate the schedule of contributors (Schedule B) currently required on IRS Form 990. Through this schedule on their annual information return to the IRS, nonprofits must report information including the names of major donors and their contribution amounts.

Although Schedule B is not available for public inspection, proponents of "Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act" (H.R. 5053) argue the information on the form can be abused by the IRS to target taxpayers and that some state attorneys general are improperly demanding the schedule be included in their charitable solicitation registration process.

**IRS** withdraws controversial proposed gift substantiation alternative. Opposition was overwhelming to a recent IRS proposal related to charitable gift substantiation rules under the tax law.

The proposal would have allowed—but not required—nonprofits to annually file a new form with the IRS as an alternative to providing donors with written charitable gift acknowledgements to substantiate their single contributions of \$250 or more for tax deductibility purposes. The IRS withdrew its proposed gift substantiation alternative after receiving nearly 38,000 public comments.

The primary concerns with the proposal were related to donor privacy and identity theft because the new reporting form would have required nonprofits to keep donor taxpayer identification numbers (social security numbers) on file to report to the federal government.

Changes coming soon to presentation standards for Not-for-Profit Financial Statements. The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has announced the first major changes in over 20 years to its standards governing financial statement presentation by not-for-profits, including churches and ministries.

Among other requirements, organizations will have to provide greater disclosure about how they allocate expenses and change the way they report net assets.

Nonprofits will also need to:

- Report more and clearer information concerning resources available to make general expenditures.
- Provide additional information about endowments whose values fall below the original gift amount.
- Classify net assets in two categories: those with donor restrictions and those without donor restrictions.

The changes become effective for GAAP-prepared financial statements for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018.

**New Form I-9 released.** A new version of Form I-9 has been released. Ministries may continue using the current version of Form I-9 with a revision date of March 8, 2013 until January 21, 2017. After that date, all previous versions of the Form I-9 will be invalid.

The new form will have some "smart" error-checking features. It will have an expiration date of August 31, 2019.

It is important to note that the new I-9 form is not an electronic I-9. Employers filling out the new form I-9 using Adobe Reader will still need to print the form, obtain handwritten signatures, store in a safe place, monitor reverifications and updates with a calendaring system, and retype information into E-Verify as required.

**Nationwide church survey identifies governance trends.** U.S. church leaders now have the opportunity to gain insight into trends in church governance. ECFA polled more than 500 churches with questions about board member selection processes and criteria, the division of power between pastors and board members, church spending patterns, and measurement of institutional effectiveness.

Key findings include the following:

- Financial experience (18.1 percent) and legal experience (5.5 percent) are among the least desired qualifications for board membership while the most desirable characteristic for board members is faithfulness (89.8 percent), followed by consistent giving (51.9 percent).
- In 93.7 percent of churches surveyed, the lead pastor is on the board in some capacity. The lead pastor is a voting member of the board at 42.7 percent of churches, and at 29.8 percent of these churches the lead pastor chairs the board.
- 50.7 percent of churches see their board as being primarily in charge, while 46.8 percent viewed the church staff as being primarily in charge.
- More than 60 percent of churches report they "don't have a conflict of interest policy" or "probably have one, but have not reviewed it in a long time." Conversely, only 16.4 percent of churches have a policy and ensure that the policy is followed by requiring staff and board members to complete an annual questionnaire.

The full survey and a downloadable summary infographic are available online at ECFA.org.

Key Federa	l Tax Limits, Rates	, and Other Data	
	2015	2016	2017
Social security:			
SECA (OASDI & Medicare) combined rate for employers and employees	15.3% on wages up to \$250,000 married-joint \$125,000 married-separate and \$200,000 all others	15.3% on wages up to \$250,000 married-joint \$125,000 married-separate and \$200,000 all others	15.3% on wages up th \$250,000 married-join \$125,000 married-separath and \$200,000 all other
OASDI maximum compensation base	\$117,000	\$118,500	\$127,20
Benefits and contributions:	,		
Maximum annual contribution to defined contribution plan	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$54,00
Maximum salary deduction for 401(k)/403(b)	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,00
401(k) & 403(b) over 50 "catch up" limit	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,00
Maximum income exclusion for nonqualified plans in 501(c)(3) organizations (IRC 457)	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,00
IRA contribution limit — age 49 and below — age 50 and above	\$5,500 \$6,500	\$5,500 \$6,500	\$5,50 \$6,50
Highly compensated employee limit	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$120,00
Maximum annual contribution to health flexible spending arrangements	\$2,550	\$2,550	\$2,600
Per diem and mileage rates and other trans	portation:		
Standard per diem: Lowest rates	Lodging \$83	Lodging \$89	Lodging \$9
in continental USA	Meals & Incidentals \$46	Meals & Incidentals \$51	Meals & Incidentals \$5
Business auto mileage rate:	57.5¢ per mile	54¢ per mile	53.5¢ per mi
Moving & medical auto mileage rate	23¢ per mile	19¢ per mile	17¢ per mi
Charitable auto mileage rate	14¢ per mile	14¢ per mile	14¢ per mi
Airplane mileage rate (1)	\$1.29 per mile	\$1.17 per mile	
Motorcycle mileage rate (1)	54.5¢ per mile	51¢ per mile	
Bicycle commuting rate	\$20 per month	\$20 per month	
Maximum value of reimbursement of business expenses (other than lodging) without receipt	\$75	\$75	\$7
Luxury automobile value (limit on use of cents-per-mile valuation of company automobile)	\$16,000	\$16,000	
Monthly limit on free parking	\$250	\$255	\$25
Transit passes/token — monthly tax-free limit	\$250	\$255	\$25
Form 990/990-T/990-N and 1099-MISC to		· 1	<u>_</u>
Threshold for filing Form 990 (if not otherwise exempt)	Gross receipts ≥\$200,000 or Total assets ≥\$500,000	Gross receipts ≥\$200,000 or Total assets ≥\$500,000	Gross receipts ≥\$200,00 or Total assets ≥\$500,00
Threshold for required filing Form 990-T	\$1,000 annual gross UBI	\$1,000 annual gross UBI	\$1,000 annual gross UE
Threshold for required filing Form 990-N	Under \$50,000 in annual gross receipts	Under \$50,000 in annual gross receipts	Under \$50,00 in annual gross receip
Threshold for required filing of Form 1099-MISC (payment for most personal services)	\$600	\$600	\$60
Quid pro quo:			
Minimum contribution and maximum cost of token	Minimum gift: \$52.50 Maximum cost: \$10.40	Minimum gift: \$53.00 Maximum cost: \$10.50	Maximum gift: \$53.5 Maximum cost: \$10.6
Maximum value of de minimus benefit	2% of gift, but not more than \$105	2% of gift, but not more than \$106	2% of gif but not more than \$10
Other:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Federal minimum wage per hour	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.2
Gift tax annual exclusion	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{(1)}}$  Privately owned vehicle mileage rates set by the U.S. General Services Administration.

# Charitable Gift Reporting

A gift is the unconditional transfer of cash or property with no personal benefit to the donor. The mere transfer of funds to a church is not necessarily a gift. For example, when a parent pays the tuition for a child to attend a church-operated school, there is no gift or charitable deduction.

If payments are made to a church to receive something in exchange, the transaction is more in the nature of a purchase. The tax law states that a transfer to a church is not a contribution when made "with a reasonable expectation of financial return commensurate with the amount of the transfer." When one transfer comprises both a gift and a purchase, only the gift portion is deductible.

Charitable contributions are deductible if given "to and for the use of" a church to be used under its control to accomplish its exempt purposes.

Two types of gifts commonly given to a church are:

- ➤ **Gifts without donor stipulations.** Contributions received without donor restriction are generally tax-deductible.
- ➤ **Donor-restricted gifts.** The donor may designate contributions for a specific purpose of the church (also referred to as *restricted* gifts) rather than donate without stipulation. If the gifts are in support of the church's exempt program activities and not designated or restricted for an individual, they are generally tax-deductible.

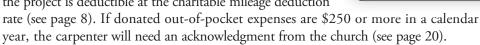
If gifts are merely preferenced for a specific individual, a tax deduction is generally allowed if the church exercises full administrative control over the funds and they are spent for program activities of the church (earmarked gifts are generally not deductible).

#### • What Gifts Are *Not* Tax-Deductible?

The church should not provide a contribution acknowledgment for certain gifts. Some examples of gifts that do not result in a tax deduction are:

**Services**. No deduction is allowed for the contribution of services to a church.

**Example:** A carpenter donates two months of labor on the construction of a new facility built by the church. The carpenter is not eligible for a charitable deduction for the donation of his time. He is entitled to a charitable deduction for the out-of-pocket expenses for any supplies he donates to the project, and his mileage driving to and from the project is deductible at the charitable mileage deduction



➤ **Use of property**. The gift of the right to use property does not yield a tax deduction to the donor.

**Example:** A donor provides a church with the rent-free use of an automobile for a year. There is no charitable deduction available to the donor for the value of that use. If the donor paid the taxes, insurance, repairs, gas, or oil for the vehicle, these items would be deductible as a charitable contribution based on their cost.



#### Warning

When a person makes a gift of services to a church, it may be the most valuable gift that can be made—a gift of one's talents. However, the gift of services does not qualify for a charitable deduction and it should never be receipted by the church—except to express appreciation. Out-of-pocket expenses related to the gift of services qualify as a charitable gift.

> Strings attached. A gift must generally be complete and irrevocable to qualify for a charitable deduction. There is usually no charitable deduction if the donor leaves "strings attached" that can be pulled later to bring the gift back to the donor or remove it from the control of the church.

#### • When Is a Gift Tax-Deductible?

When donors make gifts near the end of the year, the question often arises: "Is my gift deductible this year?" A donor's charitable deduction, assuming deductions are itemized, depends on various factors:

- Checks. A donation by check is considered to be made on the date the check is delivered or mailed, as evidenced by its postmark, if the check subsequently clears the donor's bank in due course. For example, a check that is mailed with a December 31 postmark and promptly deposited by the church will be deductible by the donor in the year the check is written, even though the check clears the bank the following year. However, a postdated check is not deductible until the date shown.
  - **Example 1:** A donor mails a check with a postmark of December 31, 2016. The church operates on a calendar year. It does not receive the check until January 7, 2017. The church deposits the check in its bank on January 7 and it clears the donor's bank on January 10. The gift is deductible by the donor in 2016.
  - **Example 2:** A donor delivers a check to the church on December 31, 2016. The donor asks that the check be held for three months. Following the donor's request, the church deposits the check on March 31, 2017. This gift is deductible by the donor in 2017.
- Securities. A contribution of stock is completed upon the unconditional delivery of a properly endorsed stock certificate to your church or its agent. If the stock is mailed and is received by the church or its agent in the ordinary course of the mail, the gift is effective on the date of mailing. If the donor delivers a stock certificate to the issuing corporation or to the donor's broker for transfer to the name of the church, the contribution is not completed until the stock is actually transferred on the corporation's books.
- ➤ **Real estate.** A gift of real estate is deductible at the time a properly executed deed is delivered to the church.
- ➤ Credit cards. A contribution charged to a bank credit card is deductible by the donor when the charge is made, even though the donor does not pay the credit card charge until the next year.
- ➤ Electronic fund transfers. Donors can instruct their banks via phone or computer to pay contributions to your church. If a donor uses this method to make a donation, it's deductible at the time payment is made by the bank.
- Pledges. A pledge is not deductible until payment or other satisfaction of the pledge is made.

## Charitable Gift Acknowledgments

Contributors to your church seeking a federal income tax charitable contribution deduction must produce, if asked, a written receipt from the church if a single contribution's value is \$250 or more. Strictly speaking, the burden of compliance with the \$250 or more rules falls on the donor. In reality, the burden and administrative costs fall on the church, not the donor.

Caution

A donor will not be allowed a charita-

ble deduction for single donations of

If a donor makes multiple contributions of \$250 or more to your church, one acknowledgment that reflects the total amount of the donor's contributions to the church for the year is sufficient. In other words, the church can total all of the contributions for a donor and only show the total amount on the receipt (see page 13 for sample receipts).

rmation to be included in the receipt. The following rmation must be included in the gift receipt:	\$250 or more unless the donor has a receipt from your church. This applies
the donor's name,	to any type of donation. For a single donation of \$250 or more made by
if cash, the amount of cash contributed,	check, the canceled check is not adequate substantiation.
if property, a description, but not the value (if the gift is an auto, boat, or airplane, the church must generally provide Foto the donor of the property),	
a statement explaining whether the church provided any good exchange for the contribution,	ds or services to the donor in
if goods or services were provided to the donor, a description their value and a statement that the donor's charitable deduct of the payment in excess of the value of the goods and service were provided consisting solely of intangible religious benefits	cion is limited to the amount es provided, and if services
the date the donation was made, and	
the date the receipt was issued.	

When receipts should be issued. Donors must obtain their receipts no later than the earlier of either the due date, plus any extension, of their income tax returns or the date the return is filed. If a donor receives the receipt after this date, the gift does not qualify for a contribution deduction, even on an amended return.

If your church is issuing receipts on an annual basis, you should try to get them to your donors by at least January 31 each year and earlier in January if possible. This will assist your donors in gathering the necessary data for tax return preparation.

- When receipts should not be issued. Your church may be asked to issue receipts when no receipt is due. When payments made to your church represent the fair market value of products or services provided to the payer, no receipt should be issued. When a check is given to your church but the payee is another nonprofit organization, no receipt is due.
  - **Example 1:** The Brown family uses the sanctuary and fellowship hall for a wedding and a reception. The normal rental fee is \$300. Their check to the church for \$300 is marked "Contribution" and they ask for a receipt since the amount was for \$250 or more. No receipt should be given because no charitable contribution was made.
  - **Example 2:** The Brown family uses the sanctuary and fellowship hall for a wedding and a reception. The church does not have a stated use fee but asks for a donation from those who use the facility. The comparable fee to rent similar facilities is for \$250. The Browns give a check to the church for \$250 marked "Contribution" and ask for a receipt since it was for \$250 or more. No receipt should be given because no charitable contribution was made.

**Caution** 

If an individual is chosen as a repre-

sentative to an annual church-related

convention, purchases an airline ticket for \$500, and is not reimbursed by the

church, this expense may be claimed

as a charitable deduction. The church

should provide a statement describing

the services provided in attending the

convention and state that no goods or services were provided in exchange for

the gift, if this is true.

- **Example 3:** Your church operates a school. The parent of a student at the school writes a \$400 tuition check payable to the church and requests a receipt since it was for \$250 or more. No receipt should be given because no charitable contribution was made.
- **Example 4:** The Sunday services are recorded, and recordings from the service may be obtained for a "contribution" of \$5. This is a quid pro quo transaction (see page 19). There is generally no charitable deduction for this payment since the \$5 approximates the fair market value of the recording.
- **Frequency of issuing receipts.** Receipts can be issued gift-by-gift, monthly, quarterly, annually, or by any other frequency. For ease of administration and clear communication with donors, many churches provide a receipt for all gifts, whether more or less than \$250.
- ➤ Form of receipts. Except for Form 1098-C—used for gifts of autos, boats, or airplanes—no specific design of the receipt is required. The IRS has not issued any sample receipts for churches to follow.

The receipt can be a letter, a postcard, or a computer-generated form. It does not have to include the donor's social security number or other taxpayer identification number. A receipt can also be provided electronically, such as via an email addressed to the donor. There is no requirement for the receipt to be signed.

- ➤ Separate gifts of less than \$250. If a donor makes separate gifts during a calendar year of less than \$250, there is no receipting requirement since each gift is a separate contribution. The donor's canceled check will provide sufficient substantiation. However, most churches receipt all gifts with no distinction between the gifts under or over \$250.
- ▶ **Donations payable to another charity.** A member may place a check in the offering plate of \$250 or more, payable to a mission organization and designed for the support of a particular missionary serving with the mission. In this instance, no receipting is required by your church. Since the check was payable to the mission agency, that entity will need to issue the acknowledgment to entitle the
- ➤ Donor's out-of-pocket expenses. Volunteers may incur out-of-pocket expenses on behalf of your church. Substantiation from your church is required if a volunteer claims a deduction for unreimbursed expenses of \$250 or more. However, the IRS acknowledges that the church may be unaware of the details of the expenses or the dates on which they were incurred. Therefore, the church must substantiate only the types of services performed by the volunteer which relate to the out-of-pocket expenses.

donor to claim the gift as a charitable contribution.

- ➤ **Foreign organizations.** Donations must be made to domestic organizations to qualify for a charitable deduction.
  - **Example 1:** A gift made directly to a missionary group organized and operating in Israel does not qualify for a charitable deduction.
  - **Example 2:** A gift to a church with a designation that the funds be used for a China-based mission agency may qualify for a charitable deduction if the church conducts adequate due diligence with respect to the work conducted by the China-based ministry.

#### Sample Charitable Gift Acknowledgment

Received from: Howard K. Auburn Cash received as an absolute gift:

Receipt #

Date Cash Received	Amount Received
1/2/16	\$250.00
1/16/16	50.00
3/13/16	300.00
3/27/16	100.00
6/12/16	500.00
7/10/16	150.00
8/21/16	200.00
10/16/16	400.00
11/20/16	350.00
	\$2,300,00

Any goods or services you may have received in connection with this gift were solely intangible religious benefits.

(*Note:* It is very important for a church to use wording of this nature when no goods or services were given in exchange for the gift.)

This document is necessary for any available federal income tax deduction for your contribution. Please retain it for your records.

Receipt issued on: Receipt issued by: January 10, 2017 Harold Morrison, Treasurer Castleview Church 1008 High Drive Dover, DE 19901

- 1. This sample receipt is based on the following assumptions:
  - A. No goods or services were provided in exchange for the gifts other than intangible religious benefits.
  - B. The receipt is issued on a periodic or annual basis for all gifts, whether over or under \$250.
- 2. All receipts should be numbered consecutively for control and accounting purposes for all the receipts prepared by a church.

#### Sample Charitable Gift Acknowledgment

Receipt #2

Received from: Charles K. Vandell Cash received:

	Gross	Value of	Net
Date Cash Received	Amount <u>Received</u>	Goods or Services	Charitable Contribution
1/23/16	\$80.00	\$25.00 (1)	\$ 55.00
3/20/16	300.00		300.00
4/24/16	60.00		60.00
6/19/16	500.00	100.00 (2)	400.00
9/04/16	275.00		275.00
10/30/16	200.00		200.00
12/18/16	1,000.00		1,000.00
			\$2,290.00

Property received described as follows:

Received on October 22, 2016, 12 brown Samsonite folding chairs.

In return for certain gifts listed above, we provided you with the following goods or services (our estimate of the fair market value is indicated):

(1) Christian music recordings \$25.00

(2) Limited edition art print \$100.00

You may have also received intangible religious benefits, but these benefits do not need to be valued for tax purposes.

The deductible portion of your contribution for federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of your contribution over the value of goods and services we provided to you.

This document is necessary for any available federal income tax deduction for your contribution. Please retain it for your records.

Receipt issued on: January 15, 2017
Receipt issued by: Harold Morrison, Treasurer
Castleview Church

1008 High Drive Dover, DE 19901

- 1. This sample receipt is based on the following assumptions:
  - A. Goods or services were provided in exchange for the gifts.
  - B. The receipt is issued on a periodic or annual basis for all gifts whether over or under \$250.
- All receipts should be numbered consecutively for control and accounting purposes.
- ➤ **Individuals.** Gifts made to poor or needy individuals ordinarily do not qualify as charitable contributions. Gifts made personally to employees of a church are not charitable contributions.

## • Reporting to the IRS

Most gifts do not require any reporting by the church to the IRS. In addition to gifts of automobiles, boats, and airplanes, certain gifts require IRS reporting, or execution of a form that the donor files with the IRS:

➤ Gifts of property in excess of \$5,000. Substantiation requirements apply to contributions of property (other than money and publicly traded securities), if the total claimed or reported value of the property is more than \$5,000. For these gifts, the donor must obtain a qualified appraisal and attach an appraisal summary to the return on which the deduction is claimed. There is an exception for nonpublicly-traded stock. If the claimed value of the stock does not exceed \$10,000 but is greater than \$5,000, the donor does not have to obtain an appraisal by a qualified appraiser.

The appraisal declaration must be completed on page two of Form 8283 (see pages 22–23), signed and dated by the church and the appraiser, and attached to the donor's return on which a deduction is claimed. The signature by the church does not represent concurrence in the appraised value of the contributed property.

Caution

Charitable deductions for gifts of automobiles, boats, and airplanes are generally limited to the gross proceeds of the sale of the property by the church.

If Form 8283 is required, it is the donor's responsibility to file it. The church is under no responsibility to see that donors file this form or that it is properly completed. However, advising donors of their obligations and providing them with the form can produce donor goodwill.

- ➤ **Gifts of property in excess of \$500.** Gifts of property valued at \$500 or more require the completion of certain information on page 1 of Form 8283. For gifts between \$500 and \$5,000 in value, the IRS does not require an appraisal or signature of the charity.
- ➤ Charity reporting for contributed property. If property received as a charitable contribution requiring an appraisal summary on Form 8283 is sold, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of by the church within three years after the date of its contribution, the church must file Form 8282 (see pages 24–25) with the IRS within 125 days of the disposition.

This form provides detailed information on the gift and the disposal of the property. A copy of this information return must be provided to the donor and retained by the church. A church that receives a charitable contribution valued at more than \$5,000 from a corporation generally does not have to complete Form 8283.

A letter or other written communication from a church acknowledging receipt of the property and showing the name of the donor, the date and location of the contribution, and a detailed description of the property is an acceptable contribution receipt for a gift of property.

There is no requirement to include the value of contributed property on the receipt. Additionally, most churches are not prepared to value gifts of property. A tension often surrounds a significant gift of property because the donor may request the church to include an excessively high value on the charitable receipt. It is wise for the church to remain impartial in the matter and simply acknowledge the property by description with the exclusion of a dollar amount.

**Example:** A church receives a gift of real estate. The receipt should include the legal description of the real property and a description of the improvements, with no indication of the dollar value.

Acknowledging and reporting gifts of autos, boats, and airplanes. Churches are required to provide contemporaneous written acknowledgment (generally using Form 1098-C; see page 15) containing specific information to donors of autos, boats, and airplanes. Taxpayers are required to include a copy of the written acknowledgments with their tax returns in order to receive a deduction. The church is also required to provide the information contained in the acknowledgment to the IRS. The information included in such acknowledgments as well as the meaning of "contemporaneous" depends on what the charity does with the donated vehicle.

**Vehicle sold before use or improvement.** If the donated auto, boat, or airplane is sold before significant intervening use or material improvement by the church, the gross proceeds received by the church from the sale of the vehicle must be included on the written acknowledgment. Therefore, for donated property sold before use or improvement, the deductible amount is the gross proceeds received from the sale.

Vehicle not sold before use or improvement. Churches may plan to significantly use or materially improve a donated auto, boat, or airplane before or instead of selling the property. The deductible amount for contributed autos, boats, or airplanes that will be used or improved by the church is the fair market value of the property, as determined by the donor, taking into consideration accessories, mileage, and other indicators of the property's general condition.

DONEE'S federal identification number DONOR'S number	2b Year 200		Form 1098-C	Boats, and Airplanes
			2d Model S10 Pickup	
35-0189211 514-41	1FAI	other identification nu 58923V159753		
DONOR'S name Fred Wilbur		ee certifies that vehicle th transaction to unre		
Street address (including apt. no.) 512 North Main	4b Cate of 1/25			
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or Lamont, KS 66855	or foreign postal code 4e Gross (	oceads from sale (see	e instructions)	Copy A
5e Donee certifies that vehicle will not be tran- improvements or significant intervening us-		vices before completic	on of material	Internal Revenue Service Center
5b Dones certifies that vehicle is to be transfer donce's charitable purpose	erred to a needy individual for significan	y below fair market val	due in furtherance of	File with Form 1096.
5e Donee certifies the following detailed description	ion of material improvements or signific	nt intervening use and	duration of use	For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the 2016 General Instructions for Certain
6a Did you provide goods or services in exchange	e for the vehicle?		. ► Yes No	Information Returns.
<b>8b</b> Value of goods and services provided in excharge.	ange for the vehicle			
<b>6e</b> Describe the goods and services, if any, that we consisted solely of intangible religious benefits		ee certifies that the go	oods and services	

In certain instances, an auto, boat, or airplane may be sold at a price significantly below fair market value (or gratuitously transferred) to needy individuals in direct furtherance of the church's charitable purpose (although it is difficult to imagine how a boat or an airplane would meet this definition).

Generally, no deduction is allowed unless donors receive Form 1098-C within 30 days after the date that the property is sold or within 30 days of the donation date if the church keeps the property. If the property is sold, donors must be informed of the gross selling price.

If the church keeps the property, the private-party sale price must be used by donors to figure the charitable tax deduction, not the higher dealer retail price.

## Special Charitable Contribution Issues

#### Granting of Scholarships

When scholarship assistance is provided by a charity, it requires careful compliance with tax laws and regulations. Three distinct areas of the tax law must be addressed:

➤ **Protecting the contributor's tax deduction.** The contribution deduction requires the gift be "to or for the use of" a church, not an individual. To qualify, the gift must be to a church (or other charity), knowing it will be used for scholarships, but without knowing who will receive the scholarship. A gift designated for a specific individual will not qualify.

Five guidelines for protecting the contribution deduction are that:

- 1. The church determines all scholarship recipients through the use of a scholarship committee.
- 2. The church has a well-published policy stating that it determines the recipients according to its own policies and that it expressly rejects any effort to honor a donor's recommendation(s).
- 3. All scholarship policies contain the following statement: "Scholarships are awarded without regard to sex, race, nationality, or national origin."
- 4. Recipients of scholarships and the amount they are to receive will be based on funds already received.
- 5. At a minimum, the criteria for scholarship qualification are in writing.
- Protecting the status of the payments to the scholarship recipient. Only a candidate for a degree can exclude amounts received as a scholarship. A qualified scholarship is any payment to or for the student if it is for "tuition and fees" or for enrollment or "fees, books, supplies, and equipment" required for specific courses. It is not necessary for a church granting a scholarship to confirm that it will be used only for qualified uses. The
- ➤ Employee dependent scholarship programs. Generally, scholarships for employees' dependents will be considered taxable compensation to the employee unless they meet the following precise guidelines. A few of the requirements include:
  - 1. The existence of the program must not be presented as a benefit of employment by the organization.
  - 2. Selection of beneficiaries must be made by an independent committee.

person receiving the scholarship must report excess amounts as taxable income.

- 3. Selection must be based solely upon substantial objective standards that are completely unrelated to the employment of the recipients or their parents.
- 4. Generally, not more than 25% of eligible dependents may be recipients of scholarships.

#### Contributions to Needy Individuals and Benevolence Funds

Contributions made directly by a donor to needy individuals are not deductible. To qualify for a charitable deduction, contributions must be made to a church or other qualified organization. Contributions to benevolence funds may be claimed as charitable deductions if they are not earmarked for particular recipients.

A gift to a church involved in helping needy people that is marked "to aid the unemployed" is generally deductible. Yet if the gift is designated or restricted for the "Brown family" and the church passes the money on to the Browns, the gift is generally not tax deductible.

If a donor makes a suggestion about the beneficiary of a benevolent contribution, it may be deductible if the church exercises proper control over the benevolence fund. The suggestion must only be advisory in nature, and the church may accept or reject the gift. However, if every

#### **Key Issue**

Too often, well-meaning people want to help a relative or a friend pay their school bills, plus they want a tax deduction for the assistance. So, instead of making a personal nondeductible gift to the intended beneficiary, they make a "gift" to a church with a request to provide a scholarship for a designated individual. This transfer of funds is not a charitable contribution and the funds should not be accepted by the church.

## Sample Benevolence Fund Policy

Whereas, New Haven Church has a ministry to needy individuals; and

Whereas, The church desires to establish a Benevolence Fund through which funds for the support of needy individuals may be administered; and

Whereas, The church desires to operate the Benevolence Fund according to the highest standards of integrity;

**Resolved,** That New Haven Church establish a Benevolence Fund to help individuals in financial need and develop written procedures to document the need, establish reasonable limitations of support per person during a specified time period, and obtain external verification of the need; and

**Resolved,** That the church will accept only contributions to the Benevolence Fund that are "to or for the use" of the church, and their use must be subject to the control and discretion of the church board. Donors may make suggestions but not designations or restrictions concerning the identity of the needy individuals; and

**Resolved,** That the church will provide a charitable contribution receipt for gifts that meet the test outlined in the previous resolution. The church reserves the right to return any gifts that do not meet the test.

"suggestion" is honored by the church, the earmarking could be challenged by the IRS.

A church may want to help a particular individual or family that has unusually high medical bills or other valid personal financial needs. To announce that funds will be received for the individual or family and to receipt the monies through the church makes the gifts personal and not deductible as charitable contributions. An option is for the church to set up a trust fund at a local bank. Contributions to the trust fund would not be deductible for tax purposes. Payments from the trust fund would not represent taxable income to a needy individual or family. This method of helping the needy person or family is clearly a legal approach and would represent personal gifts from one individual to another.

#### Contributions to Support Missionaries

Donations may be received, payable to your church, preferenced for the support of a particular missionary (often referred to as deputized fundraising). These gifts generally qualify as a charitable contribution

fundraising). These gifts generally qualify as a charitable contribution if the church exercises sufficient discretion and control over the gift. If so, the church should include the amounts in acknowledgments issued to donors. Then, the funds should be remitted as a gift or a grant to the missionary-sending organization for their disbursement in relation to the individual missionary or directly to the missionary, if the missionary is independent of a missionary-sending organization. The IRS has acknowledged that deputized fundraising is a widespread and legitimate practice and that the contributions properly raised by this method are tax-deductible.

## Warning

An area of frequent abuse involves a donation in which the donor specifies that the money must go to a particular individual (or family) to assist their financial needs. Before accepting such a gift, a church must exercise due diligence to ensure the transaction does not actually constitute earmarking of the funds by a donor, which is not deductible as a charitable contribution.

#### Contributions for Short-Term Mission Trips

It is a common practice for churches to raise funds to send volunteers on short-term mission trips. The funds are often raised by a participant preferenced for his or her own trip expenses, as opposed to raising the funds for the group of volunteers as a whole.

Tax-deductible contributions for short-term missionary trips must be made "to or for the use of" the church.

If the donor only intends to benefit the person—using the church as an intermediary in order to obtain a tax deduction for an otherwise nondeductible gift—the contribution will not be tax-deductible. Such a motivation may be encouraged by promises of a refund if the person does not go or if too much money is raised.



#### Idea

Donations for short-term missions trips generally fall under the same rules as gifts to support the ministry of career missionaries. Even gifts from an adult trip participant to a church to fund the adult's trip may qualify for a charitable deduction. Further analysis is necessary regarding the person vs. ministry purpose of the trip when funds are raised for minors.

However, when the church exercises control over the project, the contributions, and who participates; and when contribution requests emphasize funding the project, as a whole, the donor's contributions should be treated as tax-deductible gifts to the church.

#### Quid Pro Quo Disclosure Requirements

A quid pro quo payment is one made partly as a contribution and partly for goods or services provided to the donor by the church. A donor may deduct only the amount of the contribution above what the goods or services are worth.

The church is required to provide a receipt for all transactions in which the donor makes a payment of more than \$75 to the church and receives goods or services (other than intangible religious benefits or items of token value).

#### **Form of the receipt.** The receipt must:

- ☐ inform the donor that the amount of the contribution that is deductible for federal income tax purposes is limited to the difference in the amount of money and the value of any property contributed by the donor over the value of the goods or services provided by the church, and
- □ provide the donor with a good-faith estimate of the value of goods or services that the church is providing in exchange for the contribution.

Only single payments of more than \$75 are subject to the rules. Payments are not cumulative. It is not a difference of \$75 between the amount given by the donor and the value of the object received by the donor that triggers the disclosure requirements, but the amount actually paid by the donor.

➤ Calculating the gift portion. It is not a requirement for the church to actually complete the subtraction of the benefit from a cash payment, showing the net charitable deduction. However, providing the net amount available for a charitable deduction is a good approach for clear communication with donors.



#### Remember

Many churches offer products and suggest a donation amount with respect to the products. For example, a church may offer a book with a suggested donation amount of \$30. If the fair market value of the book is \$30 and the individual sends \$30 to the church, no charitable donation has been made. However, if the church receives \$50, a \$20 charitable deduction is available.

- ➤ When to make the required disclosures. The disclosure of the value of goods or services provided to a donor may be made in the solicitation as well as in the subsequent receipt. However, sufficient information will generally not be available to make proper disclosure upon solicitation. For example, the value of a dinner may not be known at the time the solicitation is made.
- **Goods provided to donors.** To determine the net charitable contribution, a gift must generally be reduced by the fair market value of any premium, incentive, or other benefit received by the donor in exchange for the gift. Common examples of premiums are books and tapes. For gifts of over \$75, organizations must advise the donor of the fair market value of the pre-

mium or incentive and that the value is not deductible for tax purposes.

Donors must reduce their charitable deduction by the fair market value of goods or services they receive, even when the goods or services were donated to the church for use as premiums or gifts or when they were bought wholesale by the church. Therefore, churches cannot pass along to donors the savings realized by receiving products at no cost or buying products at a discount.

If donors receive benefits of insubstantial value, they are allowed a full tax deduction for the donation if the item is provided free to the donor and if it is low-cost to the church:

## Warning

A church must furnish a disclosure statement in connection with either the solicitation or the receipt of a quid pro quo contribution of over \$75. The statement must be in writing and must be made in a manner that is likely to come to the attention of the donor. For example, a disclosure in small print within a larger document might not meet this requirement.

- □ **Low-cost items.** If an item has a cost (not retail value) of less than \$10.60 (2017 inflation-adjusted amount) and it bears the name or logo of your church is given in return for a donation of more than \$53.50 (2017 inflation-adjusted amount), the donor may claim a charitable deduction for the full amount of the donation. Examples of items that often qualify as tokens are coffee mugs, key chains, bookmarks, and calendars.
- □ De minimis benefits. A donor can take a full deduction if the fair market value of the benefits received in connection with a gift does not exceed 2% of the donation or \$107 (2017 inflation-adjusted amount), whichever is less.
- **Examples of the quid pro quo rules.** Here are various examples of how the quid pro quo rules apply.
  - □ Admission to events. Many organizations sponsor banquets, concerts, or other events to which donors and prospective donors are invited in exchange for a contribution or other payment. Often, the donor receives a benefit equivalent to the payment and no charitable deduction is available.
    - But if the amount paid is more than the value received, the amount in excess of the fair market value is deductible if the donor intended to make a contribution.
  - ☐ **Bazaars.** Payments for items sold at bazaars and bake sales are not tax-deductible to donors since the purchase price generally equals the fair market value of the item.
  - ☐ **Banquets.** Whether your organization incurs reporting requirements in connection with banquets where funds are raised depends on the specifics of each event.

# Sample Letter to Volunteers

	Date
Dear Volunteer:	
We appreciat	e the time, energy, and out-of-pocket costs you devote to our cause as follows:
	[Description of Services/Expenses Provided/Date Provided]

No goods or services were provided to you by our church, except intangible religious benefits, in consideration of your volunteer efforts.

You may deduct unreimbursed expenses that you incur incidental to your volunteer work. Transportation costs (travel from home to our church or other places where you render services), phone calls, postage stamps, stationery, and similar out-of-pocket costs are deductible.

You can deduct the IRS approved charitable mileage rate (14 cents per mile for 2016) in computing the costs of operating your car while doing volunteer work as well as unreimbursed parking and toll costs. Instead of using the cents-per-mile method, you can deduct your actual auto expenses, provided you keep proper records. However, insurance and depreciation on your car are not deductible.

If you travel as a volunteer and must be away from home overnight, reasonable payments for meals and lodging as well as your travel costs are deductible. Your out-of-pocket costs at a convention connected with your volunteer work are deductible if you were duly chosen as a representative of our church.

You cannot deduct travel expenses as charitable gifts if there's a significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the travel.

You cannot deduct the value of your services themselves. For example, if you devote 100 hours during the year to typing for us and the prevailing rate for these services is \$8.00 per hour, you cannot deduct the \$800 value of your services. Although deductions are allowed for property gifts, the IRS doesn't consider your services "property." Nor is the use of your home for meetings a "property contribution."

Finally, you may be required to substantiate your deduction to the IRS. Be prepared to prove your costs with canceled checks, receipted bills, and diary entries. If your expenses total \$250 or more for the calendar year, you must have this acknowledgment in hand before you file your income tax return (including any extensions).

Again, thank you for furthering our cause with that most precious commodity: your time.

Castleview Church

# Sample Letter to Noncash Donors

Noncash Acknowledgment #\_\_

(All acknowledgments should be numbered consecutively for control and accounting purposes.)

Date Acknowledgment Issued

Charitable Gift Receipt for Noncash Gifts (other than for autos, boats, or airplanes)

RETAIN FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

Donor's name and address

Thank you for your noncash gift as follows:

Date of gift:

Description of gift:

(*Note:* No value is shown for the gift. Valuation is the responsibility of the donor.)

To substantiate your gift for IRS purposes, the tax law requires that this acknowledgment state whether you have received any goods or services in exchange for the gift. You have received no goods or services. (*Note:* If goods or services were provided to the donor, replace the previous sentence with: In return for your contribution, you have received the following goods or services (description) which we value at (good-faith estimate). The value of the goods and services you received must be deducted from the value of your contribution to determine your charitable deduction.)

If your noncash gifts for the year total more than \$500, you must include Form 8283 (a copy of Form 8283 and its instructions are enclosed for your convenience) with your income tax return. Section A is used to report gifts valued at \$5,000 or under. You can complete Section A on your own. When the value of the gift is more than \$5,000, you will need to have the property appraised. The appraiser's findings are reported in Section B of Form 8283. The rules also apply if you give "similar items of property" with a total value above \$5,000—even if you gave the items to different charities. Section B of Form 8283 must be signed by the appraiser. As the donee, we have already signed the form. It is essential to attach the form to your tax return.

You might want an appraisal (even if your gift does not require one) in case you have to convince the IRS of the property's worth. You never need an appraisal or an appraisal summary for gifts of publicly traded securities, even if their total value exceeds \$5,000. You must report those gifts (when the value is more than \$500) by completing Section A of Form 8283 and attaching it to your return.

For gifts of closely held stock, an appraisal is not required if the value of the stock is under \$10,000, but part of the appraisal summary form must be completed if the value is over \$5,000. If the gift is valued over \$10,000, then both an appraisal and an appraisal summary form are required.

If we receive a gift of property subject to the appraisal summary rules, we must report to both the IRS and you if we dispose of the gift within three years.

Again, we are grateful for your generous contribution. Please let us know if we can give you and your advisors more information about the IRS's reporting requirements.

Castleview Church

**Note:** If the gift involves an auto, boat, or airplane, see pages 14–15 for the gift deduction church rules.

Department of the Treasury

#### Noncash Charitable Contributions

► Attach to your tax return if you claimed a total deduction of over \$500 for all contributed property.

► Information about Form 8283 and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form8283. Name(s) shown on your income tax return

OMB No. 1545-0908

Attachment Sequence No. 155

Identifying number 392-83-1982

Mark A. and Joan E. Murphy	39
Note, Figure the amount of your contribution deduction before completing this form. See your tax return instruction	ons.

Section A. Donated Property of \$5,000 or Less and Publicly Traded Securities—List in this section only items (or

5000	groups		ns) for w	hic	hу	ou/	cla	aim	ed	a ̈	de	du	ctic	nc	of	\$5	5,0				. Also list publicly traded
Par		ation on Donat															_	state	me	nt.	
1	(a) Nar do	me and address of the ones organization		(b)	(b) If donated property is a vehicle (see instructions), check the box. Also enter the vehicle identification number (unless Form 1098-C is attached).  (c) Description of donated property (For a vehicle, enter the year, make, model, a mileage. For securities, enter the company name the number of shares.)												s, enter the year, make, model, and curities, enter the company name and				
Α	Endless Mour 561 Maple, R	ntain Church ochester, NY 14	4623	Н	Used bedroom								droom furniture								
В				F	_	Т	П	T	П		_	Т	Т	Г	П	П	7				
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E				Ľ	_	_	_	+	-		_	+	_	_	_	_	1				
Note	If the amount v	rou claimed as a	deduction	Ļ	an i	itom	L is	\$50	Щ	r la		1/0	<u> </u>	L_	ᅜ	bar	ᆜ	to cor	nn!	lata	columns (e), (f), and (g).
Note	(d) Date of the	(e) Date acquired	(f) Hov				115		(g) (					Ť				narket v		$\overline{}$	(i) Method used to determine
				don					or ad									struction			the fair market value
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_B							+						+	4					4	_	used furniture
D							+						+	+					$\dashv$		
÷							+						+	+					$\dashv$	-	
Par	entire ir contribu	nterest in a pro ution listed in Pa	perty list art I; also	ed att	in ach	Pai the	rt I. e re	. C	om irec	ple I s	ete tate	lin m	es ent	38 t (s	a th	ins	ouç str	jh 3c uctior	if ns).	co	e if you gave less than an nditions were placed on a
2a		r from Part I that as to more than o												ess	s tn	an	an	entire	e in	tere	est 🚩
b		claimed as a ded										: (						x yea		oor	. • ———
С	from the done	dress of each orgee organization a	bove):	to	whi	ich	any	su	ch d	cor	ntrik	•				•			•		ear (complete only if different
	Address (number,	street, and room or st	uite no.)																		
	City or town, state	e, and ZIP code																			
d e		roperty, enter the person, other tha	-				-	-								sio	n c	of the	pro	per	ty ►
За	Is there a res	striction, either to	emporary	or 	perr	mar	ent	., o	n th	ne	dor	nee	e's	rigl	ht i	to	us	e or o	disp	oos	e of the donated Yes No
b	organization in the property, i	n cooperative fun	draising) t t to vote d	the Iona	righ ted	t to	the curit	ino ties	com , to	e '	fron qui	n th	he d	dor pro	nate	ed erty	pro by	perty purcl	or has	to e o	g with the donee the possession of r otherwise, or to
c	-	riction limiting the							_												
		tion Act Notice, se		_	_	_		,						_	lo. 6	_	_	-			Form <b>8283</b> (Rev. 12-2014)

This form must be completed and filed with the donor's income tax return for gifts of property valued at \$500 or more. There is no requirement of an appraisal or signature of the donee organization for gifts valued between \$500 and \$5,000.

Mark A. and Joa	ome tax return an E. Murphy				Identifying number 392-83-1982		
similar ite traded se	Property Over \$5,000 (Exceems) for which you claimed acurities reported in Section ems. An appraisal is generally	a deduction of mo A). Provide a sepa	ore than \$5,000 per item arate form for each prope	or group (except erty donated unle	contributions of public		
	nation on Donated Prop				oraiser.		
a	onservation Contribution e	Art* (contribution  Art* (contribution  Securities		g Collectibles' h Intellectual F i Vehicles	Property		
er similar objects. ollectibles include coins	ulptures, watercolors, prints, drawin s, stamps, books, gems, jeweiry, spo you must attach a qualified appr	rts memorabilia, dolla,	etc., but not art as defined above		ipis, riscorcai memoracina, ar		
	n of donated property (if you need a, attach a separate statement)		roperty was donated, give a brief I condition of the property at the		all (c) Appraised fair market value		
Residence and		Good Repa	ir		242,500		
2080 Long Po	nd Road						
Syracuse, NY							
(d) Date acquired	T I	(f) Donor's cost or	(g) For bargain sales, enter	Saa	instructions		
by donor (mo., yr.)	(e) How acquired by donor	adjusted basis	amount received	(h) Amount claimed as deduction			
7/20/09	Purchased	236,900		242,500			
	ayer (Donor) Statement-	-List each item i	ncluded in Part Labove	that the annrai	sal identifies as havin		
nature of taxpayer (c	<sub>donor)</sub> ▶ ∭www. ( nration of Appraiser	e Murphy	5	Date ►	11/28/16		
colare that I am not the	donor, the donee, a party to the tran o is related to any of the foregoing plear for other persons.	ersons. And, if regularly	used by the donor, dones, or p as as described in the appraisal, I a	arty to the transaction in qualified to make app and that a felse or freuch	<ul> <li>I performed the majority of majority of majority of the type of property being</li> </ul>		
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Section B must be completed for gifts of items (or groups of similar items) for which a deduction was claimed of more than \$5,000 per item or group.

(Rev. April 2009)

#### **Donee Information Return**

(Sale, Exchange, or Other Disposition of Donated Property)

OMB No. 1545-0908

	tment of the d Revenue S		•	See instructions.		Give a Copy to Donor
Part	s To Co	mplete				
and	Part III.			ntifying Information, Part I (lines 1a-1d and,		licable, lines 2a-2d),
	-			entifying Information, Part I, Part II, and Par	t III.	
lde	ntifying	Informa				
	Print		aritable organization (donee) onta First Church		35	yer identification number 4829942
	or Type		imber, street, and room or suite no.) (or P. River Street	O. box no, if mail is not delivered to the street address)		
			n, state, and ZIP code onta, NY 13820			
Pa	rt I	Informati	on on ORIGINAL DONOR an	d SUCCESSOR DONEE Receiving the	e Pro	perty
1a		original don	or of the property			lentifying number(s)
1c			t, and room or suite no.) (P.O. box no. if n	nail is not delivered to the street address)		2 40 0070
		hurch St		,		
1d		wn, state, and				
	Solva	y, NY 13	209			
Note	e. Comp	lete lines 2	a-2d only if the organization gave	this property to another charitable organiz	ation	(successor donee).
2a	Name of	charitable or	ganization		2b E	mployer identification number
2c	Address	(number, stree	t, and room or suite no.) (or P.O. box no.	f mail is not delivered to the street address)		
2d	City or to	wn, state, and	JZIP code			
Pai				Complete this part only if the organize instructions before completing lines 3		
3a	Name of	original don	ee		3b E	mployer identification number
3с	Address	(number, stree	t, and room or suite no.) (or P.O. box no.	f mail is not delivered to the street address)		•
3d	City or to	wn, state, and	1 ZIP code			
4a	Name of	preceding d	onee		4b E	mployer identification numbe
4c	Address	(number, stree	t, and room or suite no.) (or P.O. box no.	f mail is not delivered to the street address)		
4d	City or to	wn, state, and	1 ZIP code			
For	Paperwo	rk Reductio	n Act Notice, see page 4.	Cat. No. 62307Y		Form <b>8282</b> (Rev. 4-2009

This form must generally be filed by a church if it disposes of charitable deduction property within three years of the date the original donee received it and the items are valued at \$500 or more.

art III	Information on DONATED PROP	ERTY								
exc	Description of the donated property sold, shanged, or otherwise disposed of and how the anization used the property. (If you need more use, attach a separate statement.)		the sition e the zation's interest rty?	3. Was use re to the organi exemp purpos function	lated zation's st se or	4. Information on use of property.  • If you answered "Yes" to question 3 and the prowas tangible personal property, describe how the organization's use of the property furthered its exerpurpose or function. Also complete Part IV below.  • If you answered "No" to question 3 and the property was tangible personal property, describe to organization's intended use (if any) at the time of the contribution. Also complete Part IV below, if the intended use at the time of the contribution was related to the organization's exempt purpose or				
		Yes	No	Yes	No		nd it became impossit			
Re	al estate/Vacant lot, 82 White St.	103	NO	103	140	Impenient	-			
	neonta, NY	Х			Х					
1										
						Donated	Property			
			Α			В	С	D		
	Date the organization received the lonated property (MM/DD/YY)		9 / 1	/ 16		/ /	, ,	, ,		
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,									
	Date the original donee received the property (MM/DD/YY)	_	/	/	_	/ /	/ /	/ /		
	Date the property was sold, exchanged, or therwise disposed of (MM/DD/YY)	1	1/ 10	/ <b>16</b>		/ /	, ,	/ /		
	mount received upon disposition	\$	\$ 3,780 \$ \$							
•	Certification st sign the certification below if any propert You answered "Yes" to question 3 above, You answered "No" to question 3 above an applement.	or								
nder p	enalties of perjury and the penalty under se equirements, and is described above in Par ion; or (2) the donee organization intended ome impossible or infeasible to implement.	t III, wa to use	as subs the pro	tantial i	and rela or its ex	ated to the d	onee organization	n's exempt purpo		
functi				easure	er .		12/1/1	6		
functi s bec	Edwin Jewton		Title				y Date			
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functi s bec	Under penalties of perjury, I declare t							ing schedules a		

## Reporting as an Employer

Churches are generally required to withhold federal (and state and local, as applicable) income taxes and social security taxes and to pay employer social security tax on all wages paid to all full-time or part-time employees (except qualified ministers).

#### The Classification of Workers

Questions frequently arise about the classification of certain church workers. Seasonal workers and those working less than full-time, such as secretaries, custodians, and musicians, require special attention for classification purposes. If a worker receives pay at an hourly rate, it will be difficult to justify independent contractor status. This conclusion holds true even if the workers are part-time.

#### **Employee**

If a worker (other than a minister) is an employee, the church must withhold federal income tax (and state income tax, if applicable) and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes; match the employee's share of FICA taxes; and, unless exempted, pay unemployment taxes

on the employee's wages. In addition, the church may incur obligations for employee benefit plans such as vacation, sick pay, health insurance, and retirement plan contributions.

"Control" is the primary factor in determining whether an individual is an employee or an independent contractor. Among other criteria: employees comply with instructions, have a continuous relationship, perform work personally, work full- or part-time, are subject to dismissal, can quit without incurring liability, are often reimbursed for expenses, and must submit reports.

#### **Independent Contractor**

If the worker is classified as an independent contractor, quarterly estimated income taxes and social security taxes under the Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA) are paid by the worker. Federal income tax is not withheld for independent contractors unless under a voluntary agreement for a minister. There is no unemployment tax liability or income or social security tax withholding requirement for independent contractors.

Independent contractors normally set the order and sequence of work, set their hours of work, work for others at the same time, are paid by the job, offer their services to the public, have an opportunity for profit or loss, furnish their own tools, may do work on another's premises, and there is often substantial investment by the worker.

#### Common Law Rules

The IRS generally applies common law rules to decide if an individual is an employee or selfemployed (independent contractor) for income tax purposes. Generally, the individual is an employee if the church has the legal right to control both what and how work is done, even if the individual has considerable discretion and freedom of action.

#### The Classification of Ministers

It is important for a church to decide if the services of a minister employed by the church qualify for special tax treatment as ministerial services. Most ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers serving local churches are eligible for the six special tax provisions listed on page 27 with

#### **Key Issue**

The employee vs. independent contractor decisions is one of the most fundamental issues facing an employer making payments to workers. If a worker is truly an employee but is treated as an independent contractor, this can result in not withholding the appropriate income and FICA-type social security tax amounts.

respect to services performed in the exercise of ministry. The IRS and courts apply certain tests to these ministers, including whether ministers administer the sacraments, conduct worship services, are considered spiritual leaders by the church, and if ministers perform services in the "control, conduct, or maintenance of a religious organization." It may not be necessary for ministers to meet all of these tests to qualify for the special tax treatment.

Special Tax Provisions for Ministers
☐ Exclusion for income tax purposes of the housing allowance and the fair rental value of a church-owned parsonage provided rent-free to ministers.
☐ Exemption of ministers from self-employment tax under very limited circumstances.
☐ Treatment of ministers (who do not elect social security exemption) as self-employed as it concerns income from their ministerial services.
☐ Exemption of ministers' compensation from mandatory income tax withholding.
☐ Eligibility for a voluntary income tax withholding arrangement between minister-employees and the church.
☐ Potential double deduction of mortgage interest and real estate taxes as itemized deductions and as housing expenses for housing allowance purposes.

## **Payroll Tax Reporting**

Form W-2s are provided annually to minister-employees. There is no requirement to withhold income taxes, but they may be withheld under a voluntary agreement. Social security taxes are not withheld.

If an employee does not qualify for tax treatment as a minister, the church is liable to withhold and pay FICA and income taxes.

## Payroll Tax Withholding

#### **FICA**

Churches must withhold FICA taxes from the employee wages of all nonministers and pay them to the IRS along with the employee's share of the tax. In 2016, both the employer and the employee pay a 6.2% tax rate on the social security wage base of up to \$118,500. Similarly, both the employer and the employee pay a 1.45% Medicare tax rate on all pay above \$118,500.

## Warning

FICA-type social security taxes should never be withheld from the compensation of ministers since they are self-employed for social security purposes. They must file Schedule SE to compute self-employment social security tax, unless they have opted out of social security.

#### Federal Income Tax

Most churches are exempt from the payment of federal, state, and local income tax on the church's income (see page 49 for the tax on unrelated business income). However, they must withhold and pay federal, state, and local income taxes on the wages paid to each employee. Minister-employees are an exception to this rule.

A minister-employee may have a voluntary withholding agreement with a church relating to the minister's income taxes (or he or she may file Form 1040-ES, or both). An agreement to withhold income taxes from wages must be in writing. There is no required form for the agreement. A minister may request voluntary withholding by submitting Form W-4 (Employee Withholding Allowance Certificate) to the church indicating the additional amount to be withheld in excess of the tax table, or the written request may be in another format.

Federal income taxes for all employees (except ministers) are calculated based on the chart and tables shown in IRS Publication 15-B. State and local income taxes are usually required to be withheld according to state and local withholding tables.

Caution

Federal income taxes are not required to be withheld from the salary of ministers. But under a voluntary withholding agreement, federal income tax may be withheld—even sufficient to cover the self-employment tax liability. This withholding must be identified as "federal income tax withheld" (and not social security taxes withheld).

- ➤ Form W-4. All employees, part- or full-time, must complete a W-4 form. (Ministers are an exception to this requirement unless a voluntary withholding arrangement is used.) The withholding allowance information completed on this form gives the basis to determine the amount of income tax to be withheld.
  - Churches must file with the IRS all Forms W-4 on which employees claim exempt status from withholding (and the employees' wages would normally exceed \$200 weekly) or claim more than 10 withholding allowances.
- Form W-7. Certain individuals who are not eligible for a social security number (SSN) may obtain an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The following individuals may file Form W-7: (1) nonresident aliens who are required to file a U.S. tax return, (2) nonresident aliens who are filing a U.S. tax return only to claim a refund, (3) individuals being claimed as dependents on U.S. tax returns and who are not eligible to obtain a social security number, (4) individuals being claimed as husbands or wives for exemptions on U.S. tax returns and who are not eligible to obtain a SSN, and (5) U.S. residents who must file a U.S. tax return but are not eligible for a SSN.

#### Social Security Tax

Ministers are always subject to social security under the Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA). Therefore, social security taxes (FICA) should never be withheld from the salary of a minister. But under the voluntary withholding agreement for federal income taxes, additional federal income tax may be withheld sufficient to cover the minister's self-employment tax liability. When these withheld amounts are paid to the IRS, they must be identified as federal income tax withheld (and not social security taxes withheld).

1	Your first name and middle initial  Walter R.	Last name Knight			2 Your social 511-02-	security number
	Home address (number and street or rural r		3 Single	X Married ☐ Marri		
	601 Oakridge Boulevard	,	3 Li Single Ki Married Li Married, but withhold at higher Single rate.  Note: If married, but legally separated, or spouse is a nonresident alien, check the "Single" box.			
	City or town, state, and ZIP code			ame differs from that s		
	Vinton, VA 24179		check here. You must call 1-800-772-1213 for a replacement card. ▶			
5	Total number of allowances you are	claiming (from line H above	or from the app	licable worksheet o	n page 2)	5 4
6	Additional amount, if any, you want	withheld from each payched	k			6 S
7	I claim exemption from withholding	for 2016, and I certify that I re	neet <b>both</b> of the	following condition	s for exemption	on.
	Last year I had a right to a refund	of all federal income tax with	held because I	had <b>no</b> tax liability,	and	
	This year I expect a refund of all federal income tax withheld because I expect to have no tax liability.					
	If you meet both conditions, write "E	xempt" here		▶	7	
Inde	er penalties of perjury, I declare that I have					prrect, and complete.
	loyee's signature form is not valid unless you sign it.) ▶	Walter R.	Knigh	£	Date ► 1/0	1/16
8	Employer's name and address (Employer: 0	Complete lines 8 and 10 only if sen	ding to the (5.)	9 Office code (optional)	10 Employer id	lentification number (EIN)
or P	Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction	Act Notice, see page 2.		Cat. No. 10220Q		Form <b>W-4</b> (2016
	-					

## Depositing Withheld Payroll Taxes

The basic rules for depositing payroll taxes are:

- ➤ If the total accumulated and unpaid employment tax (income tax withheld, social security tax withheld and matched by the church) is less than \$2,500 in a calendar quarter, taxes can be paid directly to the IRS when the church files Form 941. These forms are due one month after the end of each calendar quarter.
- ➤ If payroll taxes are over \$2,500 for a quarter, payroll tax deposits must be made monthly or before the 15th day of each month for the payroll paid during the preceding month. Large churches with total employment taxes of over \$50,000 per year are subject to more frequent deposits.

The costs of missing these deadlines can be very high. Besides interest, the church is subject to penalties at progressively stiffer rates. These range from 2% if you deposit the money within five days of the due date to 15% if it is not deposited within 10 days of the first delinquency notice or on the day that the IRS demands immediate payment, whichever is earlier.

Only very small organizations are exempted from depositing electronically: employers with \$2,500 or less in quarterly employment taxes that pay their liability when filing their returns. All other coupon users must switch to making deposits by wire using Treasury's Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS): www.eftps.gov or call 800-555-4477.

Using EFTPS is a free and convenient way to make federal tax payments online or by telephone, 24/7. To enroll in this system, you merely need your taxpayer identification number, bank account and routing number, and address and name as they appear on your IRS tax documents. After you enter the requested information online, you will receive your PIN. Then, call 1-800-982-3526 to get a temporary Internet password. You are then ready to make a payment online or by telephone.

## Filing Quarterly Payroll Tax Forms

Employers must report covered wages paid to their employees by filing Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return, with the IRS.

#### Form 941

a refund.

Churches that withhold income tax and both social security and Medicare taxes must file Form 941 quarterly. There is no requirement to file Form 941 if your church has not been required to withhold payroll taxes, even if you have one or more minister-employees. However, if the only employee is a minister and voluntary federal income tax has been withheld, your church must file Form 941.

Idea

Do not file more than one Form 941

**Most Common Errors Made on Form 941.** The IRS has outlined the most common errors discovered during the processing of Form 941 and the best way to avoid making these mistakes. A checklist for avoiding these errors follows:

per quarter even if you deposit payroll taxes monthly. If you have multiple locations, you must file only one Form 941 per quarter. Filing more than one return may result in processing delays and require correspondence with the IRS.

Do not	include	titles	or	abbreviations	such	as	Dr.,	Mr.,	or
Mrs.									

M #0
Mrs.
On line 2, do not include amounts designated as housing allowance for qualified ministers.
Make sure that taxable social security wages and the social security tax on line 5a and the taxable Medicare wages and the Medicare tax on line 5c are reported separately. Most employers will need to complete both lines 5a and 5c.
The preprinted form sent by the IRS should be used. If the return is prepared by a third-party preparer, make certain that the preparer uses exactly the name that appears on the preprinted form that was sent.
Check the math for lines 5d, 10, and 11. Line 11 should always be the sum of lines 3, 5d, and 9.
Make sure the social security tax on line 5a is calculated correctly (social security wages x 12.4%).
Make sure the Medicare tax on line 5c is calculated correctly (Medicare wages x 2.9%).
Be sure to use the most recent Form 941 that the IRS sends. The IRS enters the date the quarter ended after the employer identification number. If the form is used for a later quarter, the IRS will have to contact the employer.
Make sure there is never an entry on both lines 14 and 15. There cannot be a balance due and

	yer identification number (EIN)			eport for this Quarter of 2017
Nam	Inst your trade name) Barnett Ridge Chu	rch	¬       <del>-  </del>	neck one.) 1: January, February, March
			_     _	2: April, May, June
Trad	name (if any)			3: July, August, September
Addre	PO Box 517	Suite or room number		4: October, November, December
	Selma	AL 36704		ructions and prior year forms are ilable at www.irs.gov/form941.
	City	State ZIP code	<u> </u>	<u>-</u> 1 , /2_
	Foreign country name	oreign province/county Foreign postal code		
ead t	ne separate instructions before you complete	Form 941. Type or print within the box	es.	
Part '				
1	Number of employees who received wages including: Mar. 12 (Quarter 1), June 12 (Quar			1 0
	W i	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,	24,811
2	Wages, tips, and other compensation .			
3	Federal income tax withheld from wages, t	ips, and other compensation		3 4,642 .
4	If no wages, tips, and other compensation	are subject to social security or Me	dicare tax	Check and go to line 6.
		46040	Column 2	
5a	Taxable social security wages	16,340 . × 0.124 =	2,026 .	_
5b	Taxable social security tips	× 0.124 =	<u> </u>	_
5c	Taxable Medicare wages & tips	16,340 • × 0.029 =	474 •	
5d	Taxable wages & tips subject to Additional Medicare Tax withholding	× 0.009 =		
5e	Add Column 2 from lines 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5c		6	se 2,500 .
				•
5f	Section 3121(q) Notice and Demand-Tax	due on unreported tips (see instruction	ons) 6	51
5 <b>f</b>	Section 3121(q) Notice and Demand—Tax  Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines 3		ons)	6 7,142 <b>.</b>
		), 5e, and 5f	ons)	
6	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines 3	of cents	ons)	7,142
6 7	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines 3 Current quarter's adjustment for fractions	of cents		7,142
6 7 8 9	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines of Current quarter's adjustment for fractions Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay	of cents		7,142 .
6 7 8 9	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines is Current quarter's adjustment for fractions Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay Current quarter's adjustments for tips and si	of cents		7,142 .
6 7 8	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines is Current quarter's adjustment for fractions Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay Current quarter's adjustments for tips and a Total taxes after adjustments. Combine line	of cents		7,142 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 7,142 .
6 7 8 9 10	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines is Current quarter's adjustment for fractions Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay Current quarter's adjustments for tips and a Total taxes after adjustments. Combine line Qualified small business payroll tax credit for	of cents		7,142 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 7,142 .
6 7 8 9 110 111	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines is Current quarter's adjustment for fractions Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay Current quarter's adjustments for tips and it Total taxes after adjustments. Combine line Qualified small business payroll tax credit for Total taxes after adjustments and credits. Total deposits for this quarter, including	of cents	Form 8974 1	7,142 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 10 . 7,142 .
6 7 8 9 110 111 112	Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines is Current quarter's adjustment for fractions. Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay. Current quarter's adjustments for tips and a Total taxes after adjustments. Combine line Qualified small business payroll tax credit for Total taxes after adjustments and credits. Total deposits for this quarter, including overpayments applied from Form 941-X, 941-X.	of cents	Form 8974 1	7,142 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 10 . 7,142 . 11 . 12 . 13 . 7,142 .

					950217
ame (not your trade name) Barnett Ri	idge Church	1			ification number (EIN) 35 - 2017883
			and tax liability for this quarter		
			hly schedule depositor or a sem		positor, see section 11
of Pub. 15.	Line 12 on this	return is less	s than \$2,500 or line 12 (line 10 if the	prior quarter was the f	ourth quarter of 2016) on the retur
16 Check one: 🕍	for the prior q quarter, if line t this return is \$1	uarter was le: 12 (line 10 if th 100,000 or mo	ss than \$2,500, and you didn't incur e prior quarter was the fourth quarter o re, you must provide a record of you e below, if you are a semiweekly sched	a \$100,000 next-day de f 2016) for the prior quart r federal tax liability. If ye	sposit obligation during the currer er was less than \$2,500 but line 12 o ou are a monthly schedule deposito
			edule depositor for the entire q n go to Part 3.	uarter. Enter your tax	liability for each month and total
	Tax liability:	Month 1	2,201 •	]	
		Month 2	2,493 .	]	
		Month 3	4,448 .	]	
	Total liability fo	or quarter	7,142 •	Total must equal li	ne 12.
			schedule depositor for any part Semiweekly Schedule Depositors,		
Part 3: Tell us abou	ıt your busine	ss. If a que:	stion does NOT apply to your b	ousiness, leave it bla	nk.
17 If your business	has closed or	you stopped	paying wages		Check here, and
enter the final dat	te you paid wag	es /	/ .		
18 If you are a seas	onal employer	and you do	n't have to file a return for every	quarter of the year	Check here.
Part 4: May we spe	ak with your t	hird-party	designee?		
Do you want to a for details.	llow an employe	ee, a paid tax	preparer, or another person to di	scuss this return with	the IRS? See the instructions
	e's name and p	phone numbe	er'		
	e's name and p			no to the IDC	
	·		er on Number (PIN) to use when talki	ng to the IRS.	
Select a	5-digit Person:	al Identification			
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury	s 5-digit Persons  You MUST con	al Identification	on Number (PIN) to use when talki	it,	
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct	ou MUST con I declare that I helt, and complete.	al Identification	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi	
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury	ou MUST con I declare that I had, and complete.	al Identification	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi Print your name here Print your	ch preparer has any knowladge.  David Baker
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you	ou MUST con I declare that I had, and complete.	al Identification	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi Print your name here	ch preparer has any knowledge.
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you name he	ou MUST con I declare that I had, and complete.	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi Print your name here Print your	David Baker Office Manager
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you name he	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi Print your name here Print your title here	David Baker Office Manager  334-873-1754
Select a No. Part 5: Sign here. Y Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct Sign you name he	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of whi  Print your name here Print your title here  Best daytime pho	David Baker Office Manager  334-873-1754
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, if is true, correct  Sign you name here.  Paid Preparer Us	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it, chedules and statements, d on all information of whi  Print your name here Print your title here  Best daytime pho	David Baker Office Manager  334-873-1754
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you name here  Paid Preparer Us  Preparer's name	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, d on all information of white print your name here. Print your title here.  Best daytime photocheck if you are	David Baker  Office Manager  1 334-873-1754  Self-employed
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you name he  Paid Preparer Us  Preparer's name  Preparer's signature  Firm's name (or yours	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, don all information of white Print your name here Print your title here  Best daytime photocheck if you are Print your the Print your the Print your title here  Best daytime photocheck if you are Print Date	David Baker  Office Manager  1334-873-1754  Self-employed
Select a  No.  Part 5: Sign here. Y  Under penalties of perjury and belief, it is true, correct  Sign you name he  Preparer's name  Preparer's name  Preparer's signature  Firm's name (or yours if self-employed)	ou MUST con declare that I hot, and complete ur ere 4 /15	nplete both ave examined Declaration of	on Number (PIN) to use when talkit pages of Form 941 and SIGN in this return, including accompanying sc	it. chedules and statements, don all information of white print your name here Print your title here  Best daytime photo Check if you are Print Date  EIN	David Baker  Office Manager  1334-873-1754  Self-employed

Page Z Form 941 (Rev. 1-201)

## Form 941-X

Form 941-X may be used to correct errors reported on Forms 941 or 941-SS for one quarter only. Form 941-X must be filed separately from Form 941.

(EIN)	identification number 3 5 - 6 3 0 9 2 9 4	Return You Are Correcting  Check the type of return you are correcting:						
Name (not	your trade name) Little Valley Church	X 941						
Trade nam	ne fit and	941-SS						
Trade Ikin		Check the ONE quarter you are correcting:						
Address	4865 Douglas Road  Number Sheet Suite or room number X 1: January, February, Marc							
	Springfield OH 45504	2: April, May, June						
	City Strie ZIP code	3: July, August, September						
	Foreign country name Foreign province/country Foreign costs/ code	4: October, November, December						
rors you at need	separate instructions before completing this form. Use this form to correct a made on Form 941 or 941-SS. Use a separate Form 941-X for each quarter is correction. Type or print within the boxes. You MUST complete all three	Enter the calendar year of the quarter you are correcting:  2016 (YYYY)						
~	not attach this form to Form 941 or 941-SS.  Select ONLY one process. See page 4 for additional guidance.							
X 1.	Adjusted employment tax return. Check this box if you underreported amounts. Also check this box if you overreported amounts and you would like to use the adjustment process to correct the errors. You must check this box if you are correcting both underreported and overreported amounts on this form. The amount shown on line 20, if less than zero, may only be applied as a credit to your Form 941, Form 941-SS, or Form 944 for the tax period in which you are filing this form.	Enter the date you discovered errors  05/10 / 2016 (MM / DD / YYYY)						
2.	claim process to ask for a refund of sbatement of the amount shown on line 20. Do not check this box if you are correcting ANY underreported amounts on this form.							
art 2:	Complete the certifications.							
adj	id to correct overraported amounts of Additional Medicare Tax unless the amounts we ustreent is being made for the current year.  If you checked line 1 because you are adjusting overreported amounts, check all the Loarify that:							
	a. I repaid or reimbursed each affected employee for the overcollected federal income year and the overcollected social security tax and Medicare tax for current and pric- security tax and Medicare tax overcollected in prior years, I have a written statement or she has not claimed for the claim was rejected; and will not claim a refund or create.	years. For adjustments of employee social t from each affected employee stating that he						
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,							
	b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shared each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has not claim a refund or credit for the overcollection.							
_	b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shar or each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has n	onal Medicare Tax that I did not withhold from						
	<ul> <li>b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shar or each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has not claim a refund or credit for the overcollection.</li> <li>c. The adjustment is for federal income tax, social security tax, Medicare tax, or Additional Control of the control of</li></ul>							
5.	<ul> <li>b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shar or each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has not claim a refund or credit for the overcollection.</li> <li>c. The adjustment is for federal income tax, social security tax, Medicare tax, or Additional Employee wages.</li> <li>If you checked line 2 because you are claiming a refund or abatement of overreports You must check at least one box.</li> </ul>	tax and Medicare tax. For claims of employee tement from each effected employee stating						
5.	<ul> <li>b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shar or each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has not claim a refund or credit for the overcollaction.</li> <li>c. The adjustment is for federal income tax, social security tax, Medicare tax, or Additional employee wages.</li> <li>If you checked line 2 because you are claiming a refund or abatement of overreports You must check at least one box.</li> <li>I repaid or reimbursed each affected employee for the overcollected social security social security tax and Medicare tax overcollected in prior years, I have a written step.</li> </ul>	tax and Medicare tax. For claims of employee tement from each affected employee stating to credit for the overcollection.  In for the employee's share of social security overcollected in prior years, I also have a						
5.	<ul> <li>b. The adjustments of social security tax and Medicare tax are for the employer's shar or each affected employee did not give me a written statement that he or she has not claim a refund or credit for the overcollaction.</li> <li>c. The adjustment is for federal income tax, social security tax, Medicare tax, or Additional employee wages.</li> <li>If you checked line 2 because you are claiming a refund or abatement of overreporte You must check at least one box.</li> <li>I certify that:</li> <li>a. I repaid or reimbursed each affected employee for the overcollected social security social security tax and Medicare tax overcollected in prior years, I have a written state that he or she has not claimed (or the claim was rejected) and will not claim a refund.</li> <li>b. I have a written consent from each affected employee stating that I may file this claim tax and Medicare tax. For refunds of employee social security tax and Medicare tax written statement from each affected employee stating that he or she has not claim and provided in the provided of amployee stating that he or she has not claim as the provided of amployee stating that he or she has not claim as not claim.</li> </ul>	tax and Medicare tax. For claims of employee tement from each affected employee stating to credit for the overcollection.  In for the employee's share of social security overcollected in prior years, I also have a set (or the claim was rejected) and will not claim could not find the affected employees; or each is share of social security tax and Medicare as not claimed (or the claim was rejected) and						

## • Filing Annual Payroll Tax Forms

#### Form W-2

By January 31, each employee must be given a Form W-2. Be sure to reconcile the data reflected on Forms W-2, W-3, and 941 before distributing Form W-2s to employees. If these forms do not reconcile, the IRS generally sends a letter to the employer requesting additional information. For help or information, call 866-455-7438.

Make all entries without a dollar sign or comma but with a decimal point and cents (do not use whole dollars).



#### Remember

One of an employer's primary challenges is to determine if all of an employee's compensation is reported on Form W-2. Taxable compensation that is often erroneously omitted includes life insurance premiums paid for the employee (only group term life up to \$50,000 is tax-free) and expense allowances (only expenses reimbursed under an accountable plan are tax-free).

b Employer identification number (FIN) 35-2948039					es, tips, other compensation 93800.00		2 Federal income tex withheld 7000.00		
e Employe	er's name, eddress, and ZIP o	ode		3 Soc	elal security wages 95000.00		4 Social security tax withheld 3990.00 6 Medicare tax withheld 1377.50 8 Allocated tips		
	ABC Charity 2870 North Hull Traverse City, M	11040			95000.00	1			
d Control	number			9		10 Dependent			
e Employe	ee's first name and initial Michael A	Lastrame Black	Suff	. 11 Nor	qualified plans	0	tions for box 12 200.00		
4 Environ	15550 Cleveland Traverse City, Mi			13 8 mm om	oyoo pitri eco pity	120	984.73		
	Employer's state ID number 6309294	16 State wages, tips, etc. 93800.00	17 State inso 700.0		18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income ta	x 20 Lecality name		
Copy A Fo		ax Statement stration — Send this entire pag inistration; photocopies are no Do Not Cut, Fold,	t acceptable.		Fo A	or Privacy Act and P	ernal Revenue Service Taperwork Reduction eparate instructions. Gat. No. 10134D		

**Void** – Put an X in this box when an error has been made on this W-2.

Box 1 – Wages, tips, other compensation. Items to include in Box 1 (before any payroll deductions) are:

- total wages paid during the year (including love offerings paid by the church to the minister or other employee);
- the value of noncash payments, including taxable fringe benefits;
- business expense payments under a nonaccountable plan;

- payments of per diem or mileage allowance paid for business expense purposes that exceed the IRS specified rates;
- > payments made by a church to an employee's Individual Retirement Account;
- > payments for nonexcludable moving expenses;
- ➤ all other compensation, including taxable fringe benefits ("other compensation" represents amounts a church pays to an employee from which federal income tax is not withheld. If you prefer, you may show other compensation on a separate Form W-2); and
- ➤ the cash housing allowance or the fair market rental value of housing and utilities, which must be reported as taxable income for lay employees unless furnished on the church's premises and the employee is required to accept the lodging as a condition of employment.



#### Caution

Do not include any per diem or mileage allowance or other reimbursements for employee business expenses under an accountable plan in Boxes 1 or 14, if the total reimbursement is less than or equal to the amount substantiated.

#### Exclude the following:

➤ the fair rental value of a church-provided parsonage or a properly designated housing allowance for ministers;

		Ch	ecklist for Completing Box 1 of Form W-2
	Include		
Minister Only	Both	Nonminister Only	
	yes		Salary
no		yes	Housing/furnishings allowance (designated in advance)
no		yes	Parsonage rental value
no		yes	Utilities paid by church
	yes		Social security/Medicare "allowance" or reimbursement
	no		Transportation/travel and other business and professional expense reimbursements, only if paid under a board-adopted accountable reimbursement plan
	yes		"Reimbursements" if not paid under an accountable reimbursement plan
	yes		Church love offerings or cash gifts in excess of \$25
	no		Contributions to a tax-sheltered annuity plan
	no		Health/dental/long-term care insurance premiums paid directly or reimbursed by the church
	no		Group term life insurance premiums (for up to \$50,000 coverage) paid directly by the church
	no		Excludable moving expenses paid for or reimbursed to an employee
	yes		Nonexcludable moving expenses paid for or reimbursed to an employee
	yes		Value of personal and nonbusiness use of church's vehicle

- ➤ auto, business, or qualified moving expense reimbursements paid through an accountable expense plan; and
- contributions to 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities or 401(k) plans.

**Box 2 – Federal income tax withheld.** Enter the total federal income tax withheld according to the chart and tables in IRS Publication 15.

A minister-employee may enter into a voluntary withholding arrangement with the church. Based on Form W-4 or other written withholding request, federal income tax withholding may be calculated from the chart and tables in Publication 15, excluding any housing allowance amount.

Ministers may request that an additional amount of income tax be withheld to cover self-employment tax. However, the additional amount withheld is reported as income tax withheld on the quarterly Form 941 and in Box 2 of Form W-2.

A church that provides additional compensation to the minister-employee to cover part or all of the self-employment tax liability may:

- ▶ pay the additional compensation directly to the IRS by entering that amount on the church's Form 941 and in Boxes 1 and 2 of Form W-2, or
- ➤ pay the additional compensation to the minister with the minister being responsible for remitting the amounts to the IRS with a Form 1040-ES. If this procedure is followed, the church reports this amount only as additional compensation on Form 941 and only in Box 1 of Form W-2.

**Box 3 – Social security wages.** Show the total wages paid (before payroll deductions) subject to employee social security tax (FICA). This amount must not exceed \$118,500 in 2016 (the maximum social security tax wage base). Include nonaccountable employee business expenses reported in Box 1. Generally, all cash and noncash payments reported in Box 1 must also be shown in Box 3. Voluntary salary reduction tax-sheltered annuity contributions for nonminister employees are included in Box 3.

Box 3 should be blank for a qualified minister (an individual who meets the ministerial tests of the IRS).

**Box** 4 – **Social security tax withheld.** Show the total FICA social security tax (not including the organization's share) withheld or paid by the church for the employee. The amount shown must equal 6.2% of the amount in Box 3 and must not exceed \$7,347 for 2016. Do not include the matching employer FICA tax (6.2%).

Some churches pay the employee's share of FICA tax for some or all nonminister employees instead of deducting it from the employee's wages. These amounts paid by the church must be included in Boxes 1, 3, and total paid to the employee as advance earned income credit payments.

Box 4 should be blank for qualified ministers. Any amount of withholding to meet the minister's SECA tax liability must be reported in Box 2, not in Box 4 or Box 6.

**Box 5** – **Medicare wages.** The wages subject to Medicare tax are the same as those subject to social security tax (Box 3), except that there is no wage limit for the Medicare tax.

**Example:** A *nonminister* employee is paid wages of \$120,000. The amount shown in Box 3 (social security wages) should be \$118,500, but the amount shown in Box 5 (Medicare wages) should be \$120,000. If the wages are less than \$118,500, the amounts entered in Boxes 3 and 5 will be the same.

- Box 5 should be blank for ministers. Nonqualified moving expense reimbursements and payments for lay employees are included in Box 5.
- **Box 6 Medicare tax withheld.** Enter the total employee Medicare tax (not your share) withheld or paid by you for your employee. The amount shown must equal 1.45% of the amount in Box 5. Box 6 should be blank for qualified ministers.
- **Box 9 Advance EIC payment.** Show the total paid to the employee as advance earned income credit payments.
- **Box 10 Dependent care benefits.** Show the total amount of dependent care benefits under Section 129 paid or incurred by you for your employee, including any amount over the \$5,000 exclusion. Also include in Box 1, Box 3, and Box 5 any amount over the \$5,000 exclusion.
- **Box 11 Nonqualified plans.** Enter the total amount of distributions to the employee from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan. Nonqualified plans do not include a tax-sheltered annuity or a "Rabbi trust." Include an amount in Box 11 only if it is also includible in Box 1 or Boxes 3 and 5.
- **Box 12 Additional entries.** The following items are most frequently inserted in Box 12 by churches:
- C Group term life insurance. If you provided your employee more than \$50,000 of group term life insurance, show the cost of the coverage over \$50,000. Also include the amount in Box 1 (also in Boxes 3 and 5 for a lay employee).
- DD Value of employer-provided health coverage. This data is required for employers issuing 250 or more Form W-2s.
- E Section 403(b) voluntary salary reduction agreement to purchase an annuity contract. This amount would not be included in Box 1 for either ministers or lay employees. This amount would be included in Boxes 3 and 5 for a lay employee.
- L Generally, payments made under an accountable plan are excluded from the employee's gross income and are not required to be reported on Form W-2. But if the church pays a per diem or mileage allowance, and the amount paid exceeds the amount substantiated under IRS rules, you must report as wages on Form W-2 the amount in excess of the amount substantiated. Report the amount substantiated (the nontaxable portion) in Box 12. In Box 1, show the portion of the reimbursement that is more than the amount treated as substantiated. For lay employees, the excess amount is subject to income tax withholding, social security tax, Medicare tax, and possibly federal unemployment tax.
  - **Example 1:** An employee receives a mileage reimbursement at the rate of 54 cents per mile for 2016, and substantiates the business miles driven to the church. The mileage reimbursement is not reported on Form W-2.
  - **Example 2:** An employee receives a mileage allowance of \$2,000 per year and does not substantiate the business miles driven. The \$2,000 allowance is includible in Box 1 as compensation for ministers and Boxes 1, 3, and 5 for a lay employee. The business mileage is deductible as a miscellaneous deduction on the employee's Schedule A, subject to limitations.

Payments made to nonminister employees under a nonaccountable plan are reportable as wages on Form W-2 and are subject to income tax withholding, social security tax, Medicare tax, and possibly federal unemployment tax.

Payments made to minister-employees under a nonaccountable plan are reportable as wages on Form W-2 and may be subject to income tax withholding under a voluntary agreement, but are not subject to mandatory withholding, social security (FICA), or Medicare tax.

- P Report nonqualified moving expense reimbursements and payments in Box 1 for either ministerial or lay employees. This amount is included in Boxes 3 and 5 for lay employees.
- R Church contributions to an Archer medical savings account.
- S Salary reductions to a savings incentive match plan for employees with a SIMPLE retirement account.
- T Employer payments under an adoption assistance plan.
- Y Deferrals under section 409A nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
- Z Income under a section 409A nonqualified deferred compensation plan.

Box 13 – Check the appropriate boxes. The box that may apply to employees of churches and nonprofit organizations is the retirement plan box.

Mark this box if the employee was an active participant (for any part of the year) in any of the following:

- 1. A qualified pension plan described in section 401(a)—(including a 401(k) plan)
- 2. An annuity plan described in section 403(a)
- 3. An annuity contract or custodial account described in section 403(b)
- 4. A simplified employee pension (SEP) plan described in section 408(k)

**Box 14 – Other.** You may use this box for any other information the employer wishes to provide to an employee. Label each item and include information such as health insurance premiums deducted or educational assistance payments.

If the church owns or leases a vehicle for an employee's use, the value of the personal use of the vehicle is taxable income. The value of the

use of the vehicle (using one of the methods shown below) must be included in Box 1 (and in Boxes 3 and 5 for a lay employee) or on a separate statement to the employee. The employee is required to maintain a mileage log or similar records to substantiate business and personal use of the vehicle and to submit this to the employer. If its use is not substantiated, the employer must report 100% of the use of the vehicle as taxable income.

If the employee fully reimburses the employer for the value (reimbursement for gas is not a full reimbursement) of the personal use of the vehicle, then no value would be reported in either Box 1 or in Box 14.

Vehicles provided by a church to employees for business use are often partially used for personal purposes. The IRS treats most types of personal use of a church-provided vehicle as a noncash fringe



#### **Filing Tip**

A minister's housing allowance could be included in Box 14 with the words "Housing Allowance." However, some churches prefer to provide ministers with a separate statement reflecting the housing allowance amount.

benefit, and generally requires the fair market value of such use to be included in the employee's gross income (to the extent that the value is not reimbursed to the church).

If the employee reimburses the church in a chargeback system for the full dollar value of personal use, it will cost the employee more than if the church includes the personal use value in the income of the employee.

Several methods may be used to value the personal use of a church-provided vehicle. This value must be included in the employee's compensation if it is not reimbursed by the employee. The two methods most commonly used by ministers are discussed here.

➤ **Annual lease value rule**. Under this rule, the fair market value of a vehicle is determined and that value is used to determine the annual lease value amount by referring to the annual lease value table:

Lease Value Tabl	e Lable	alue	V	Lease
------------------	---------	------	---	-------

		Iarket of Car	Annual Lease <u>Value</u>			Iarket of Car	Annual Lease <u>Value</u>
\$0	_	1,999	850	22,000	-	22,999	6,100
2,000	_	2,999	1,100	23,000	_	23,999	6,350
3,000	_	3,999	1,350	24,000	_	24,999	6,600
4,000	_	4,999	1,600	25,000	_	25,999	6,850
5,000	_	5,999	1,850	26,000	_	27,999	7,250
6,000	_	6,999	2,100	28,000	_	29,999	7,750
7,000	_	7,999	2,350	30,000	_	31,999	8,250
8,000	_	8,999	2,600	32,000	_	33,999	8,750
9,000	_	9,999	2,850	34,000	_	35,999	9,250
10,000	_	10,999	3,100	36,000	_	37,999	9,750
11,000	_	11,999	3,350	38,000	_	39,999	10,250
12,000	_	12,999	3,600	40,000	_	41,999	10,750
13,000	_	13,999	3,850	42,000	_	43,999	11,250
14,000	_	14,999	4,100	44,000	_	45,999	11,750
15,000	_	15,999	4,350	46,000	_	47,999	12,250
16,000	_	16,999	4,600	48,000	_	49,999	12,750
17,000	_	17,999	4,850	50,000	_	51,999	13,250
18,000	_	18,999	5,100	52,000	_	53,999	13,750
19,000	_	19,999	5,350	54,000	_	55,999	14,250
20,000	_	20,999	5,600	56,000	_	57,999	14,750
21,000	_	21,999	5,850	58,000	_	59,999	15,250

The annual lease value corresponding to this fair market value, multiplied by the personal use percentage, is the amount to be added to the employee's gross income. Amounts reimbursed by the employee are offset.

➤ Cents-per-mile valuation rule. Generally, this rule may be used if the church reasonably expects that the vehicle will be regularly used in the ministry of the church, or if the vehicle is driven at least 10,000 miles a year and the vehicle is primarily used by employees. This valuation rule is available only if the fair market value of the vehicle, as of the date the vehicle was first made available for personal use by employees, does not exceed a specified value set by the IRS. For 2016, this value is \$16,000.

Multiply the number of miles driven for personal purposes by the current IRS standard mileage rate (see page 6) to determine the value of personal use.

#### Form W-3

A Form W-3 is submitted to the IRS as a transmittal form with Forms W-2. Form W-3 and all attached W-2s must be submitted to the Social Security Administration Center by February 28 or April 1 if e-filing. No money should be sent with Form W-3.

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the "cover sheet" or transmittal	form for all Forms W	-2.

#### Form W-2c

Use Form W-2c to correct errors on a previously filed Form W-2.

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a Employer's name, address, and ZIP of	code	g Tas year/Form corrected	d Employee's correct GSN
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		124	124
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#### Form W-3c

Use Form W-3c to transmit corrected W-2c forms to the Social Security Administration.

#### Unemployment Taxes

The federal and state unemployment systems provide temporary unemployment compensation to workers who have lost their jobs. Employers provide the revenue for this program by paying federal unemployment taxes, under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), and state unemployment taxes. These are strictly employer taxes, and no deductions are taken from employees' wages.

The current federal unemployment tax law exempts from coverage:

- services performed in the employ of a church, a convention, an association of churches, or an organization that is operated primarily for religious purposes (to qualify for exemption, employees must be performing strictly religious duties);
- services performed by duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of a church in the exercise of ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by such order;
- services performed in the employ of an unincorporated church-controlled elementary or secondary school.

States may expand their coverage of unemployment taxes beyond the federal minimum. In many states, exemption is also provided for:

> services performed in the employ of a separately incorporated school, if the school is operated primarily for religious purposes and is operated, supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church, convention, or association of churches.

#### Paying Employee Expenses

An accountable expense reimbursement plan is a reimbursement or expense allowance arrangement that requires: (1) a business purpose for the expenses, (2) employees to substantiate the expenses, and (3) the return of any excess reimbursements.

The substantiation of expenses and return of excess reimbursements must be handled within a reasonable time. The following methods meet the "reasonable time" definition.

- ➤ The "fixed date" method applies if:
  - ☐ an advance is made within 30 days of when an expense is paid or incurred;
  - an expense is substantiated to the church within 60 days after the expense is paid or incurred; and
  - any excess amount is returned to the church within 120 days after the expense is paid or incurred.



**Filing Tip** 

Recent court cases reflect attempts by

states to subject religious organizations,

including churches, to state unemploy-

ment taxes. Except for an Oregon case and a New York case, most courts have

held that churches are not subject to

state unemployment tax.

#### Idea

While the business connection and return of amounts exceeding expenses are criteria that must be satisfied, substantiation of the expenses is often very challenging. Adequate accounting generally means the submission to the church of an account book, diary, log, statement of expense, trip sheet, or similar record maintained by the employee and recorded at or near the time of the expense.

- ➤ The "periodic statement" method applies if:
  - the church provides employees with a periodic statement that sets forth the amount paid under the arrangement in excess of substantiated expenses;
  - ☐ the statements are provided at least quarterly; and
  - the church requests that the employee provide substantiation for any additional expenses that have not yet been substantiated and/or return any amounts remaining unsubstantiated within 120 days of the statement.

If employees substantiate expenses and return any unused excess payments to the church on a timely basis, payments to the employee for business expenses have no impact on tax reporting. They are not included on Form W-2 for the employee.

#### Nonaccountable Expense-Reimbursement Plans

If business expenses are not substantiated by the employee to the church, or if the amount of the reimbursement to the employee exceeds the actual expenses and the excess is not returned within a reasonable period of time, reporting is required.

Nonaccountable reimbursements and excess reimbursements over IRS limits must be reported as wages on Form W-2. They are generally subject to federal income tax and FICA withholding for employees other than ministers.

If a church pays allowances to employees for continuing education, books, subscriptions, and other similar professional expense items and does not require an accounting, these payments are part of a nonaccountable plan. The amounts must be included on Form W-2 and are subject to income tax and FICA withholding for nonministers.

#### Reporting the Housing Allowance to Ministers

The designated housing allowance may be reflected on Form W-2 in Box 14 with the notation "Housing Allowance." Alternatively, the church can report the designated housing allowance to ministers by providing a statement separate from Form W-2. This may be in a memo or letter. The statement should not be attached to the income tax return.

The church may erroneously include the housing allowance on Form W-2, Box 1. If this happens, the church should prepare a corrected form.

#### Compensation-Related Loans

Some churches make loans to employees. The loans are often restricted to the purchase of land or a residence or to the construction of a residence. Before a loan is made, the church should determine if the transaction is legal under state law. Such loans are prohibited in many states.

If a church receives interest of \$600 or more in a year relating to a loan secured by real estate, a Form 1098 must be provided to the payor. For the interest to be deductible as an itemized deduction, an employee loan must be secured by the residence and properly recorded.

If a church makes loans to employees at below-market rates, the church may be required to report additional compensation to the employee. If the loan is below \$10,000, there is no additional compensation to the borrower. For loans over \$10,000, additional compensation is calculated equal to the foregone interest that would have been charged if the loan had been made at a mar-

ket rate of interest. The market rate of interest is the "applicable federal rate" for loans of similar duration. The IRS publishes these rates monthly. The additional compensation must be reported on Form W-2, Box 1.

#### Obtaining an Employer Identification Number

All churches must obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) by filing IRS Form SS-4 (see page 42). An EIN is required for a church, even though churches are not required to file with the IRS for tax-exempt status. This number is not a "tax-exempt number," but is simply the church's unique identifier in the IRS's records, similar to an individual's social security number.

When a church applies for exemption from state or local income, sales, or property taxes, the state or local jurisdiction may provide a certificate or letter of exemption which, in some jurisdictions, includes a serial number. This number is often called a "tax-exempt number." This number should not be confused with the EIN.

#### Application for Recognition of Tax-Exempt Status

Churches are not required to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are exempt from filing Form 990. Some donors may ask if a church is listed in the Exempt Organizations Select Check database (formerly IRS Publication 78, *The Cumulative List of Organizations*), which identifies entities to which tax-deductible contributions may be made. However, there is no requirement for churches to be listed in the IRS database since a church is tax-exempt by its very nature.

#### Immigration Control

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) prohibits all churches from hiring unauthorized aliens, imposes documentation verification requirements on all churches, and provides an "amnesty" program for certain illegal aliens. The law also prohibits churches with three or more employees from discriminating because of national origin. An I-9 Form (see page 43) must be completed and retained on file by all churches for each employee hired. Form I-9 may be obtained by calling 800-375-5283 or at http://uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf.

The Form I-551, Alien Registration Receipt Card, is the exclusive registration card issued to lawful permanent residents as definitive evidence of identity and U.S. residence status.

#### Racial Discrimination

Form 5578, Annual Certification of Racial Nondiscrimination for a Private School Exempt from Federal Income Tax, must be filed by churches that operate, supervise, or control a private school. The form must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of the organization's fiscal year. For organizations that must file Form 990, there is no requirement to file Form 5578, since the information is included in Schedule E.

The "private school" definition includes preschools; primary, secondary, preparatory, and high schools; as well as colleges and universities, whether operated as a separate legal entity or as an activity of a church.

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This form must be completed and retained on file for all employees hired after November 1, 1986. For more information on completing this form, go to www.uscis.gov.

#### Information Reporting Requirements

#### General Filing Requirements

Information forms (1098 and 1099) must be provided to the payers/recipients on or before January 31 following the calendar year that the funds were paid or received. Copies of the forms (or electronic media) must be filed with the IRS by February 28 (if you file electronically, the due date is April 1) following the year that the funds were paid or received.

An extension of time to file may be requested by filing Form 8809, Request for Extension of Time to File Information Returns, by the due date of the returns.

#### **Obtaining Correct Identification Numbers**

Churches required to file information returns with the IRS must obtain the correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report real estate transactions, mortgage interest paid to the church, and certain other transactions.

Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, (see page 49) is used to furnish the TIN to the church and in certain other situations to

- certify that the TIN furnished is correct,
- certify that the recipient of the income is not subject to backup withholding, or
- claim exemption from backup withholding.

#### • Reporting on the Receipt of Funds

#### Receipt of Interest on Mortgages

Use Form 1098, Mortgage Interest Statement, to report mortgage interest of \$600 or more received by an organization during the year from an individual, including a sole proprietor. There is no requirement to file Form 1098 for interest received from a corporation, partnership, trust, estate, or association. A transmittal Form 1096 must accompany one or more Forms 1098.

#### Reporting on the Payment of Funds

#### Payments to nonresident aliens

Payments for personal services made to noncitizens who are temporarily in this country (nonresident aliens) are often subject to federal income tax withholding at a 28% rate. (A nonresident alien is a person who is neither a U.S. citizen nor a resident of the United States.) Some payments may be exempt from income tax withholding, if the person is from a country with which the United States maintains a tax treaty. Salary payments to nonresident aliens employed in the United States are subject to income tax withholding based on the regular withholding tables.

Single, nonrecurring, fixed, or determinable payments to nonresident aliens are not generally subject to withholding. Honoraria paid to visiting speakers usually fit this definition. It is not clear if love offerings are subject to withholding.



#### Remember

If the recipient does not furnish a completed Form W-9, the church or nonprofit organization is required to withhold 28% of the payment for amounts paid, deposit the withholding with Form 8109 or 8109-B, and report amounts withheld on Form 1099-INT, 1099-MISC, or 1099-R, as applicable.

All payments to nonresident aliens, other than expense reimbursements and amounts reported on Form W-2, must be reported on Form 1042 and 1042-S.

These forms are filed with the IRS Service Center in Philadelphia by March 15 for the previous calendar year, and a copy of Form 1042-S must be sent to the nonresident alien.

#### Caution

Generally, you must withhold 30% from the gross amount paid to a foreign payee, unless you can reliably associate the payment with valid documentation that establishes the payee as a U.S. person. If you do not have documentation or if you believe the documentation is unreliable or incorrect, you must follow the presumption rules outlined in IRS Publication 515.

#### **Payments of Interest**

File Form 1099-INT, Statement for Recipients of Interest Income (see page 50), for each person to whom the church paid interest reportable in Box 1 of at least \$10 in any calendar year. This form is also required if any federal income tax was withheld under the backup withholding rules (28%), regardless of the amount of the payment. In certain instances, the \$10 limit increases to \$600. There is no requirement to file Form 1099-INT for payments made to a corporation or another tax-exempt organization.

The \$10 limit applies if the interest is on "evidences of indebtedness" (bonds and promissory notes) issued by a corporation in "registered form." A note or bond is in "registered form" if its transfer must be effected by the surrender of the old instrument and either the corporation's reissuance of the old instrument to the new holder.

**Example 1:** Sleepy Hollow Church financed a new facility by issuing registered bonds. Forms 1099-INT must be provided to each bond investor receiving \$10 or more in interest during any calendar year.

If Sleepy Hollow engaged a bond broker to handle the issuance of the bonds, the broker would issue the 1099-INT forms. If Sleepy Hollow issued the bonds without using a bond broker, the church would issue 1099-INT forms.

**Example 2:** Sleepy Hollow Church borrows funds from members. The notes are transferable. There is no requirement to return the bonds to the church for reissuance. The \$600 limit applies for the issuance of 1099-INT forms for the payment of interest on these notes.

#### Payments of Royalties and for Other Services

File Form 1099-MISC (see page 52) for each recipient (other than corporations) to whom you have paid:

- ➤ at least \$10 in royalties, or
- ➤ at least \$600 in rents, payments for services or medical healthcare payments.

**Example:** A church has established a written, nondiscriminatory employee health a reimbursement arrangement under which the church pays the medical expenses of the employee, spouse, and dependents.

If \$600 or more is paid in the calendar year to a doctor or other provider of health care services, a Form 1099-MISC must be filed. Amounts paid to an employee under a health reimbursement arrangement are not reportable on Forms W-2 or 1099-MISC.

Do not include the payment of a housing allowance to ministers on Form 1099-MISC. Advances, reimbursements, or expenses for traveling and other business expenses of an employee are not reportable on Form 1099-MISC. These payments may be reportable on Form W-2, if they do not comply with the account-

able expense plan rules.

Advances, reimbursements, or expenses for traveling and other business expenses of a self-employed are not reportable on Form 1099-MISC, if made under an accountable expense reimbursement plan. Under this type of plan, expenses are reimbursed only if they are substantiated as to amount, date, and business nature, and any excess reimbursements must be returned to the church.

On Form 1099-MISC, report all advances, reimbursements, or expenses for traveling and other business expenses of a self-employed person for income tax purposes that are not substantiated to the church.

#### Caution

There is more misunderstanding about the use of the Form 1099-MISC than about most IRS forms. Payments of \$600 or more per calendar year to noncorporate providers of services trigger the filing of this form. This form should not be used for employee compensation payments. Thus, a church should not report ministerial compensation (or the housing allowance) on this form.

- **Example 1:** Westview Church organizes a seminar and engages a speaker. The speaker is paid a \$750 honorarium, and Westview reimburses the travel expenses upon presentation of proper substantiation by the speaker. A Form 1099-MISC should be issued to the speaker for \$750.
- **Example 2:** Same facts as Example 1, except for the \$750 payment, \$250 is designated for travel expenses and the speaker substantiates to Westview for the travel. Since the honorarium is \$500 after excluding the substantiated payments, and therefore is less than the \$600 limit, there is no requirement to issue a Form 1099-MISC to the speaker.
  - If Westview paid another honorarium to the same speaker during the same calendar year of \$100 or more, bringing the total for the year to the \$600 level, a Form 1099-MISC should be issued.
- **Example 3:** Same facts as Example 1, except that of the \$750 payment, \$250 is designated for travel expenses. But the speaker does not account to Westview for the travel expenses. A Form 1099-MISC should be issued to the speaker for \$750.
- **Example 4:** Westview Church contracts for janitorial services with an unincorporated janitorial service and pays \$2,000 during the year for this service. Westview should issue a Form 1099-MISC for these payments.

#### Payments to Volunteers

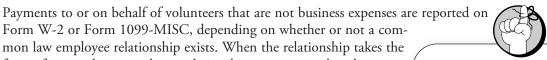
Payments to volunteers that represent a reimbursement under an accountable business expense reimbursement plan for expenses directly connected with the volunteer services are not reportable by the church to the volunteer.

The tax law does not specifically address whether volunteers are eligible for mileage reimbursement at the standard charitable or business mileage rate (see page 8 for applicable mileage rates), as contrasted with a deduction of 14 cents per mile (2016 rate) when volunteer mileage is not reimbursed. When an organization provides liability insurance for its volunteers, the value of the coverage can be excluded from the volunteer's income as a working condition fringe benefit.

Form W-2 or Form 1099-MISC, depending on whether or not a common law employee relationship exists. When the relationship takes the form of an employer-employee relationship, payments other than expense reimbursement are reported on Form W-2. Payments to nonemployee volunteers for medical, education, or personal living expenses must be reported as nonemployee compensation on Form 1099-MISC. Payments to volunteers for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses may be made under the per diem rules, if the duration of

the travel is under one year. Tax-free payments to volunteers for lodg-

ing, meals, and incidental expenses are limited to actual expenses



#### Remember

Tax law does not specifically address what deductions are allowable for volunteers. However, if the volunteer renders services under the direction and supervision of the ministry, then the tax provisions for expense reimbursement of employees appears to apply to such volunteers, including mileage reimbursement payments at the business mileage rate.

#### **Unrelated Business Income**

(including use of the charitable mileage rate).

Most churches are supported primarily from contributions or revenue from activities directly related to their exempt purposes. Sales of religious books, tuition at schools, and campers' fees at camp are examples of exempt purpose revenue. On the other hand, income from activities not directly related to fulfilling a church's exempt purposes may be subject to the tax on unrelated business income.

All income of churches is presumed to be tax-exempt from federal income tax unless the income is generated by an activity that is

- not substantially related to the church's exempt purpose or function,
- a trade or business, and
- regularly carried on.

Although churches are exempt from filing Form 990, they must file Form 990-T if they have \$1,000 or more of gross unrelated business income (UBI) in a year. There is a specific deduction of \$1,000 in computing UBI. This specific deduction applies to an individual church, convention, or district.

#### Other Filings

Form 5578 must be completed and furnished to the IRS to provide information regarding nondiscrimination policies of private schools. This includes preschools and primary, secondary, and high schools operated by a church.

#### Types of Payments

An alphabetical list of some payments and the forms necessary to report them is shown on page 50.

### **Summary of Payment Reporting Requirements**

Below is an alphabetical list of some payments and the forms necessary to report them. It is not a complete list of payments, and the absence of a payment from the list does not suggest that the payment is exempt from reporting.

Types of Payment	Report on Form	Types of Payment	Report on Form
Advance earned income credit	W-2	Employee business expense reimbu	rsement
Annuities, periodic payments	1099-R	(Nonaccountable plan)	W-2
*Attorneys' fees	1099-MISC	Fees for services:	
**Auto, personal use of church-owned		Employee	W-2
veĥicle	W-2	Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Auto reimbursements (nonaccountable plan):		Group term life insurance	W-2 or 1099-R
Employee	W-2	Interest, mortgage	1098
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Interest, other than mortgage	1099-INT
Awards:		Long-term care benefits	1099-LTC
Employee	W-2	Medical expense reimbursement pla	an
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	(employee-funded)	5500, 5500-C, or 5500-R
Bonuses:		Mileage (nonaccountable plan):	01 9900 10
Employee	W-2	Employee	W-2
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Cafeteria/flexible benefit plans	5500/5500-C or 5500-R	Mortgage interest	1098
Car expense (nonaccountable plan):		Moving expenses:	XXV. 2
Employee	W-2	***Employee	W-2
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Christmas bonuses:		Prizes:	WI O
Employee	W-2	Employee	W-2
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Commissions:		Real estate proceeds	1099-S
Employee	W-2	Rents	1099-MISC
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Royalties	1099-MISC
Compensation:		Severance pay	W-2
Employee	W-2	Sick pay	W-2
Nonemployee	1099-MISC	Supplemental unemployment	W-2
Dependent care payments	W-2	Vacation allowance:	NVI O
Director's fees	1099-MISC	Employee	W-2
Education expense reimbursement (nonaccountable plan):		Nonemployee Wages	1099-MISC W-2
Employee	W-2		
Nonemployee	1099-MISC		

<sup>\*</sup> The exemption from reporting payments made to corporations does not apply to payments to a lawyer or a law firm for legal services, even if the provider of the legal services is incorporated.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Or, the value may be reported on a separate statement to the employee.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Qualified moving expenses paid directly to an employee must be reported on Form W-2, only in Box 13, using Code P.

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53 **2017 Filing Dates** 

#### Projected 2017 Filing Dates

#### January

- 17 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax
- 31 Distribute Form 1099 to recipients
- 31 Distribute Form W-2 to employees
- 31 Form 941 due for Social Security, Medicare, and withheld income tax
- 31 Form 940 for unemployment tax

#### **February**

- 15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax
- 15 Federal tax withholding deductions reset for anyone who has not given you an updated Form W-4

#### March

- 1 Paper filing of 1099 with IRS unless filing electronically (see April 1)
- 1 Form W-3 and Copy A of all Forms W-2 unless filing electronically (see April 1)
- 15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### April

- 3 Electronic filing of Forms 1099 and W-2 with the IRS
- 17 Form 990-T due if more than \$1,000 in gross receipts of unrelated business income
- 17 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### May

- 1 Quarterly Form 941 due
- 15 Form 990 due for calendar year-end organizations (other year-ends 15th day of the 5th month after your year-end)
- 15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### June

15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### July

17 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### August

- 1 Quarterly Form 941 due
- 15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### September

15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### October

- 16 If you had an automatic extension to file individual tax return, it's now due
- 16 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax
- 31 Quarterly Form 941 due

#### November

15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax

#### December

15 Monthly deposit of Social Security, Medicare and withheld income tax Citations 54

#### Citations

#### Charitable Gifts

- Church school gifts Rev. Rul. 83-104
- Contribution denied/indirectly related to school

Ltr. Rul. 9004030

Contribution earmarked for a specific individual

Ltr. Rul. 9405003

IRS Announcement 92-128

Ltr. Rul. 8752031

Rev. Rul. 79-81

- Contribution of church bonds Rev. Rul. 58-262
- Contribution of promissory note
   Allen v. Commissioner,
   U.S. Court of Appeals,
   89-70252, (9th Cir. 1991)
- Contribution of services
   Rev. Rul. 67-236
- Contribution of unreimbursed travel expenses

Tafralian v. Commissioner, T.C.M. 33 (1991)

Rev. Rul. 84-61

Rev. Rul. 76-89

Contribution sent to children who are missionaries

Davis v. U.S., 110 S. Ct. 2014 (1990)

 Contribution to needy individuals Stjernholm v. Commissioner, T.C.M. 563 (1989)

Ltr. Rul. 8752031

Rev. Rul. 62-113

 Criteria used to determine deductibility of payments to private schools

Rev. Rul. 83-104

Rev. Rul. 79-99

Deductibility of gifts to domestic organizations for foreign use

Ltr. Rul. 9211002

Ltr. Rul. 9131052

Rev. Rul. 75-65

Rev. Rul. 63-252

Deductibility of out-of-pocket transportation expenses

Treas. Reg. 1.170A-1(g)

Rev. Rul. 76-89

 Deductibility of payments relating to fund-raising events
 Pub. 1391

Rev. Rul. 74-348

Determining value of donated property

IRS Pub. 561

- Gifts of inventory Code Sec. 170(e)
- Gifts of life insurance
   Ltr. Rul. 9147040

 Incentives and premiums IRS. Pub. 1391

Rev. Proc. 96-59

Rev. Proc. 92-102

Rev. Proc. 92-49

Rev. Proc. 90-12

Payments in connection with use of ministry services

Rev. Rul. 76-232

Scholarship gifts

Rev. Rul. 9338014

Rev. Rul. 83-104

Rev. Rul. 62-113

Substantiation rules

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993

#### Reporting as an Employer

• Classification of workers

Rev. Proc. 85-18

Sec. 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978

Employee v. self-employed for income tax purposes

Rev. Rul. 87-41

Moving expenses
 Code Sec. 82

Noncash remuneration
 Code Sec. 3401(a)

Per diem allowances
 IRS Publication 1542

• Personal use of employerprovided auto

Temp. Reg. Sec. 1.61-2T

• Unemployment taxes Code Sec. 3309(b)

 Voluntary withholding for ministers Rev. Rul. 68-507

#### Information Reporting Requirements

• Issuing Form 1099-MISCs

Rev. Rul. 84-151

Rev. Rul. 81-232

Nonresident alien payments
 Code Sec. 1441

Code Sec. 7701(b)

- Volunteer fringe benefits
   Prop. Reg. 1.132-5(r)
- Withholding of tax on nonresident aliens

Pub. 515

#### Other

Audits of Churches
 I.R.C. Sec. 7611

55 Index

## Index

A 11	0 1 20 22	N
Accountable expense	Quarterly, 30-33	Nonresident aliens, 46-47
reimbursement plans, 37, 41-42	Forms,	Out-of-pocket expenses, 12, 20
Allowances, 37-38, 42	I-9, 43, 45	Overtime, 5
Annual payroll tax forms, 34-41	SS-4, 43, 44	Payroll taxes,
Appraisals, 13	W-2, <i>34-39</i>	Depositing withheld taxes, 29-30
Audits, churches, 5	W-2c, 40	Filing annual returns, 34-41
Autos, (see vehicles)	W-3, 40	Filing quarterly returns, 30-33
Charitable contributions,	W-3c, 41	Unemployment taxes, 41
Autos, (see vehicles)	W-4, 28, 29	Withholding, 27, 28, 36
Benevolence fund, 16-17	W-9, 46, 51	Personal use of church-provided
Checks, 10	941, <i>30-33</i>	vehicles, 38-39
Credit cards, 10	941-X, <i>33</i>	Property contributions, 10, 13-14
Electronic funds transfer, 10	990-T, <i>8</i> , <i>53</i>	Private schools, 43
Foreign organizations, 12	1042, <i>46-47</i>	Quarterly payroll tax forms, 30-33
Frequency of issuing receipts, 11-13	1042-S, <i>46-47</i>	Receipting charitable contributions,
Mileage, 8	1096, <i>46</i> , <i>51</i>	10-13, 18-21
Missionaries, 17	1098, 46	Royalties,
Needy individuals, 16-17	1098-C, <i>14-15</i>	Reporting of payments, 47-48, 52
Nondeductible, 9-10	1099-INT, <i>47</i> , <i>52</i>	Scholarships, 15-16
Property, 10, 13-14	1099-MISC, <i>47-48</i> , <i>52</i>	SECA, 28
Quid pro quo, 18-19	5578, <i>49</i>	Securities, 10
Receipting, 10-13, 18-20	8282, <i>13-14</i> , <i>24-25</i>	Self-employment tax, 28
Securities, 10	8283, <i>13-14</i> , <i>22-23</i>	Services donated, 9
Services, 9	Gifts-in-kind, 21	Short-term mission trips, 18
Tax deductible, 10	Gift reporting requirements, 9-25	Social security tax,
Travel expense, 20	Health care flexible spending	FICA, <i>27, 36</i>
Use of property, 7	accounts, 4	SECA, 28
Volunteer services, <i>9</i> , <i>20</i> , <i>48-49</i>	Health care reform, 3-4	Substantiation of auto expenses,
Classification of ministers, 26-27	Housing allowance, 4-5, 42	37-38
Common law rules, 26	Immigration control, 43, 45	Taxpayer identification number,
Compensation-related loans, 42-43	Income tax withholding, 28, 29, 36	51
De minimis benefits, 19	Independent contractor, 26	Travel expense, 20
Depositing withheld payroll taxes,	Interest reporting,	Unemployment taxes, 41
29-30	Income, 46	Unrelated business income, 49, 53
Donated travel, 20	Expense, 47	Use of property, 9
Employee v. independent contractor,	Loans to employees, 42-43	Vehicles, (boats and airplanes),
26	Low cost items, 19	Gifts of, 14-15
Employees,	Mileage, 8	Personal use of employer-
În general, 26	Missionaries,	provided, 38-39
Ministers, 26-27	Gifts for the support of, 17	Reimbursements, 37-38, 41-42
Non-ministers, 26	Short-term trips, 18	Valuation of personal use, 38-39
Employer identification number,	Mortgage interest received, 46	Voluntary income tax
43, 44	Moving expenses, 8	withholding, 27, 28, 36
Expense allowances, 37-38, 42	Needy individuals, 16-17	Volunteer services, 20, 48-49
Federal income tax, 28-29, 36	Nonaccountable expense	Wages, 34-35
FICA, 27, 36	reimbursement plans, 37-38, 42	Withholding, 27, 28, 36
Filing payroll tax returns,	Nondiscrimination policy reporting,	
Annual, <i>34-41</i>	43	

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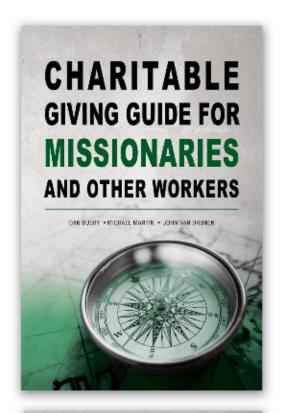
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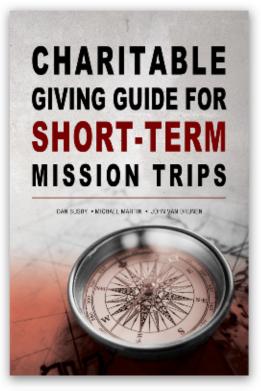
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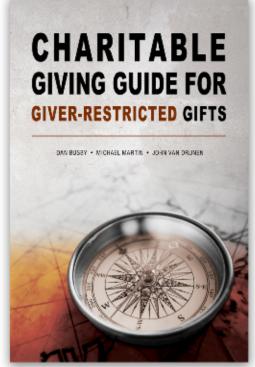


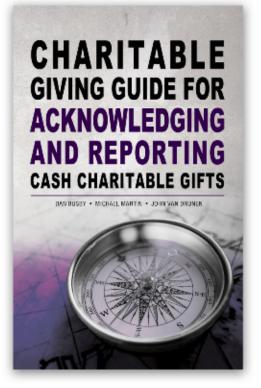
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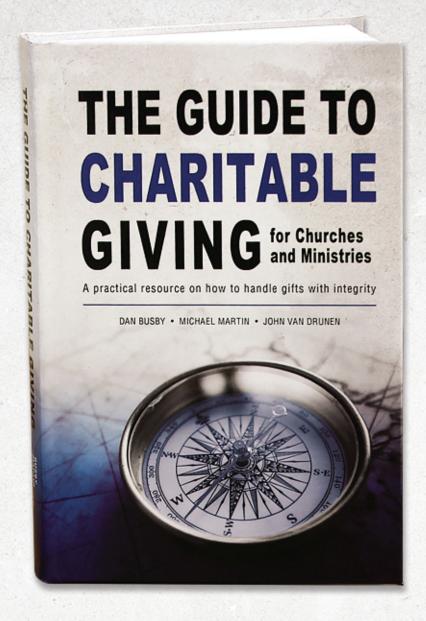




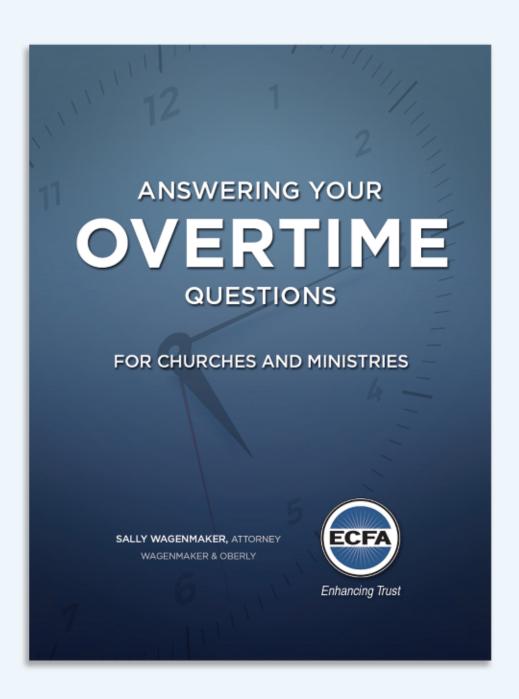




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# Biggest Tax Mistakes Made By Churches

- **1.** Church does not report ministerial compensation. Every church is responsible to report a ministeri's taxable compensation to the IRS. A Form W-2 should be used in nearly every instance.
- 2. Church pays or reimburses for out-of-pocket medical expenses without establishing a proper plan. The selection and adoption of an appropriate plan by the church is the starting point for medical expense reimbursements. Different rules govern flexible spending accounts (FSAs), health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs), and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs).
- 3. Church makes payments to a minister's investment accounts and the payments are treated as tax-free. If a church remits contributions under a Section 403(b) or 401(k) plans for a minister, these amounts are generally tax-deferred for ministers. However, payments by a church to the minister's personal investment accounts are fully taxable and should be reported on Form W-2.
- **4.** Church reimburses a minister's personal commuting miles. A church may reimburse ministers for church-related miles (at a maximum rate of 54 cents per mile for 2016). But a church should not reimburse personal commuting miles.
- 5. FICA tax is deducted from ministerial salary and matched by the church. All qualified ministers are subject to self-employment social security tax (using Form SE). A church should never withhold FICA-type social security tax from ministerial pay and match the amount withheld. FICA-type social security only applies to lay employees.
- **6.** Church reimburses a minister's expenses without adequate documentation. A minister's expenses should not be reimbursed by a church unless they are adequately documented. The why, who, what, when, and where of expenses should be documented.
- 7. Church does not formally designate a housing allowance, but treats a minister as having a proper housing allowance. Unless a church has formally and prospectively designated a housing allowance for ministers, a housing allowance should not be excluded from the minister's Form W-2s.
- 8. Church distributes benevolence amounts based solely on giver's designation. Contributions to a general benevolence fund without a giver's designation of the benevolent recipient generally constitute tax-deductible contributions. However, gifts that are restricted for a particular benevolent recipient are typically not tax deductible.
- 9. Church acknowledges property gifts and values them for the giver. The giver is always responsible to value any gifts of property (except for certain gifts of autos, boats, or airplanes). A church should simply acknowledge a gift of property, identifying the date of the gift and describing the gift without providing valuation data.
- 10. Church receives a gift of services and receipts the gift with a stated dollar amount. Gifts of services are not tax deductible to the individual who performed the services. While a church can express appreciation for gifts of services, receipts should never be issued for them.



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Dan Busby

Michael Martin

John Van Drunen

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