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Via Regular Mail and Facsimile (515) 284-4252

Ms. Pat Schneiders
Exempt Organizations Specialist
Internal Revenue Service
210 Walnut St., MC 4926 DSM
Des Moines, IA 50309-2109

Dear Ms. Schneiders:

On behalf of All Saints Church in Pasadena, California, I am responding to the Internal Revenue Service's decision to investigate the circumstances surrounding a sermon delivered by a guest preacher, who is also pastor emeritus to the congregation, on October 31, 2004, the Sunday before the 2004 Presidential election.

As you indicated in our telephone conference call on September 22 with you and your IRS colleagues, the reason you are conducting the investigation is your view that the sermon may have constituted implicit intervention in the 2004 Presidential election by its language reminding the congregation of the need to consider their values when voting in the election. In particular, you noted that a newspaper account of the sermon described it as an "indictment of the Bush administration's policies in Iraq," that the sermon criticized the "drive to develop more nuclear weapons," and described tax cuts, "which benefited the rich, as inimical to the values of Jesus." You also referenced the title of the sermon, "If Jesus Debated Senator Kerry and President Bush." The Church also wishes to note that the sermon ended with the words "[w]hen you go into the voting booth on Tuesday, take with you all that you know about Jesus, the peacemaker. Take all that Jesus means to you. Then vote your deepest values. Amen."

The Church believes that the IRS's concerns are unsupported by the facts and circumstances of the event at issue, the guest sermon on October 31. More importantly, this case implicates First Amendment principles of religious freedom and freedom of speech; indeed, it threatens core values which the congregation of the

