

There are many questions surrounding the validity of the 508(c)(1)(a). This information is useful in self-education and in helping others understand as well. The following is not a substitute for expert legal advice and should be used for educational and informational purposes.

Regarding tax-exempt status, under the U.S. federal tax code 26 U.S.C. Section 508(c)(1)(a), “churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches” fall under a ‘mandatory exception’ to the filing requirements that charitable organizations must follow to receive tax-exempt recognition by the IRS and are therefore ***not required*** to file Form 1023.

The mandatory exception of section 508 is recognized and confirmed in the instructions for Form 1023. The instructions state that certain types of organizations ‘may be considered tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) even if they do not file Form 1023. It then lists “Churches, their integrated auxiliaries of churches, and conventions and associations of churches,” among the examples. It says that “these organizations aren’t required to seek recognition of exemption...”

This is also supported by IRS Publication 557 (page 24) which states, “a church, its integrated auxiliaries, or convention or association of churches are not required to file Form 1023 to exempt from federal income tax or to receive tax deductible contributions...”

For your donors – Further clarification for donors about deductions is found in Publication 526, “You can deduct your contributions only if you make them to a qualified organization.” Examples of ‘qualified organizations,’ listed are “Churches, a convention or association of churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other religious organizations.”

Now for some word play for grounded knowledge – I used highlights for the definitions that most closely fit our scope of practice.

Church in American English

(tʃɜrtʃ)

NOUN

1.

a building [set apart](#) or [consecrated](#) for public worship, esp. one for Christian worship

2.

[religious service](#) or public worship, esp. among Christians

3. [usually **C-**]

a.

all Christians [considered](#) as a [single](#) body

b.

a particular [sect](#) or denomination of Christians

4.

the [ecclesiastical government](#) of a particular religious group, or its [power](#),
as [opposed](#) to [secular](#) government

5.

the [profession](#) of the clergy; [clerical](#) profession

6.

a group of worshipers; [congregation](#)

Ministry – A word search in dictionaries, including biblical dictionaries is VERY interesting.

Ministry is the work of a religious person or religious group, a collection of ministers or the flock tended to by a particular minister.

Auxiliaries –

COUNTABLE NOUN

An **auxiliary** is a person who is employed to assist other people in their work. Auxiliaries are often medical workers or members of the armed forces

Association –

COUNTABLE NOUN

An **association** is an official group of people who have the same job, aim, or interest

in American English

(əˌsəʊsiˈeɪʃən; əˌsɒʃiˈeɪʃən)

NOUN

1.

the act of associating

2.

the state of being associated; companionship; [fellowship](#); [partnership](#)

3.

an organization of persons having common interests, purposes, etc.; society; [league](#)

4.

a connection in the mind between ideas, sensations, memories, etc.

5.

the use of such connections as a [literary](#) device or psychoanalytic [technique](#)

6.

a group of [organisms living](#) together in the same environment and forming a large, [distinct component](#) of a biome

an oak forest association within a deciduous forest biome

7. Chemistry

the [joining](#) by [relatively](#) weak chemical bonds of two or more molecules of the same or different substances into a larger [aggregate](#), as in [polymerization](#)