

**From:** [Daniel Pincus](#)  
**To:** [Lara Kritzer](#)  
**Subject:** Tower at Grace Church  
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You had mentioned that if I sent you comments that you would see that they would be heard. So, I will just briefly give you my thoughts. You have been very responsive and I know that these may get to where they belong.

I am strongly against a city government giving funds to any religious organization. I do believe that separation of Church and State is both valid and important. Weakening that separation creates conflicts.

Yes, the tower is beautiful and possibly a landmark, but it is still the property of Grace Church. It is the bell tower that has been used to notify citizens of religious activities.

The Church serves only a specific segment of Newton's citizens and is not generally used by the public. If open to the public, this is still a structure for religious purposes, and not under public control.

Even though funds are for building purposes, those funds allow the Church to use its financial resources for religious purposes. So, Newton taxpayers are still supporting a specific religion.

Newton has many beautiful religious buildings. We should not be in the business of deciding which ones get grants and those that don't.

Giving money to any religious organization to help with their operating costs will probably bring expensive legal challenges.

This is a Church. The upkeep and repair are the responsibility of the congregants, and not the taxpayers of this city.

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