

Subject: RE: Religious Corporation
Date: Tue, 5 Apr 2016 12:09:44 -0400
From: Gasimov, Josef (DCRA) <>
To: Kenneth L Hamilton < >

Hello Kenneth,

I do not have any information supporting member's claim that agenda and minutes must be in English based on DC Nonprofit Corporation Act (DCNCA).

However there is a provision under DCNCA that allows for member to request inspection of corporate records; reasonable request under this inspection right may involve the translation of corporate records if member have limited proficiency in Swedish, etc.

Government investigative bodies to include DC Tax Office, IRS, police, DCRA investigation staff and other law enforcement agencies may request for corporate record inspection as a part of investigation; in that case certified translation may be required to assist in this investigation.

In a nutshell it may not be a bad idea to have English translations of all minutes and agenda on hand to prepare for any future legitimate requests from church members or law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,

Josef Gasimov, MPA, CP
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Corporations Division I D.C. Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs
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From: Kenneth L Hamilton < >
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Gasimov, Josef (DCRA)
Subject: Re: Religious Corporation

Josef:

Here is a question that has been bothersome to us for some time:

SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, D.C. INC. is, obviously, a Swedish Church. The services are in Swedish, the annual meetings are in Swedish, and the Church Council Meetings are conducted in Swedish. We were told, by a church member, that since we were an American corporation and by constitution and by-laws are in English, that the agenda and minutes for our Church Council must be in English.

Can you confirm or deny this, please. Is here any requirement by the DC Government that these documents be in English or that they may be in the language of the governing body?

If they are in Swedish and the DC Government wanted to review them for some reason, would we have to pay to have certified translations?

Thanks for the assistance.

Kenneth L. Hamilton