



Knox Organ Committee

Congregational Meeting

September 26, 2021

Knox's Pipe Organ - History

- In 1992 when we were building this sanctuary the congregation approved looking for a pipe organ to enhance worship, lead and inspire congregational singing.
- It has been known for a number of years that there were problems with our pipe organ. It was:
 - Never wholly completed
 - When played it sustained notes and sound quality was unreliable
 - It required inspection, no consistent record of maintenance since 2012.

Background:

September 20, 2020

Colin Walsh of Acadia Pipe Organs (a local pipe organ company with over 40 years experience) inspected the organ.

October 30, 2020

Knox was notified that the pipe organ was not safe due to:

- Dry oil wells
- The improper installation of the pipes and a sub-par framework of the organ behind the façade makes it unstable.
- Placement of the blower in the choir room creates a fire hazard.

Action: The chair of the Spiritual Oversight Committee had the organ turned off and the blower shut down.

Organ Committee

February 3, 2021

Organ committee:

- Discussed history of current organ
- Contacted Colin Walsh re his report of October 30,2020
- Agreed to gather information on how to proceed including cost estimates, etc.
- Contacted Colin by phone and agreed to meet on February 10, 2021

Findings:

- Initially, there was concern that the floor structure of the choir loft had been damaged due to the weight of our organ.
- Former Chair of Property, Mannie Lewis, verbally assured that the floor of the choir loft is structurally sound. No written report was acquired.
- Due to the instability of the structure & the condition of the pipes behind the facade, immediate removal of these components is essential.
- The blower is a fire hazard and must be removed from the choir room.
- The above are safety issues and must be addressed. Cost quoted (Acadia Pipe Organs) is \$10,000.

Current condition of our organ:



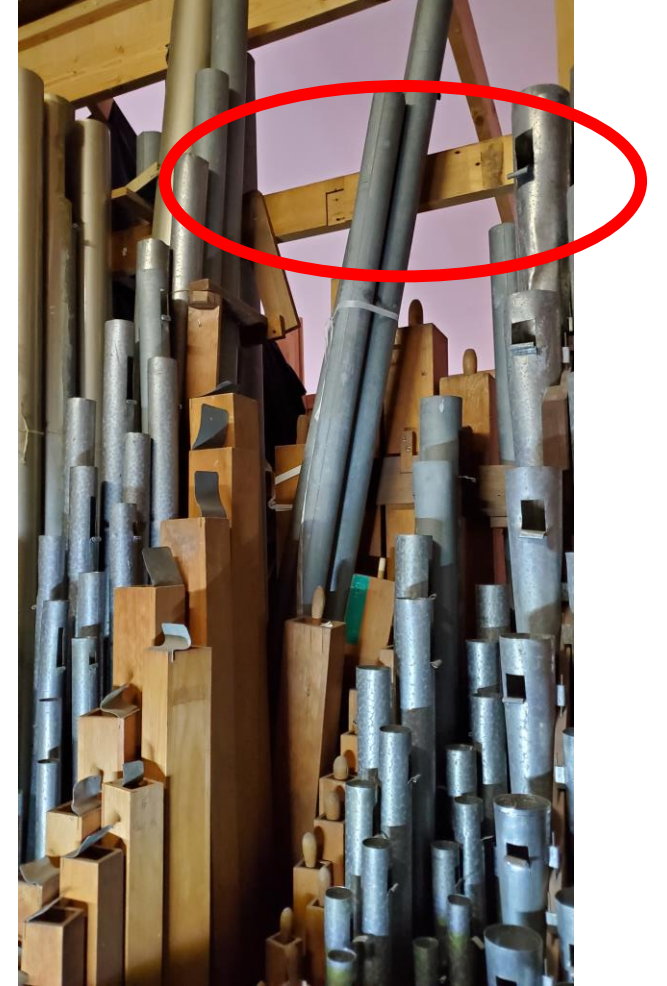
Glue used to hold pipes together.



Pipes are severely damaged.



More damaged pipes. Notice misalignment.



Pipes are leaning and not structurally sound.

Properly Installed Pipes:



Milestones

Oct. 30, 2020

Acadia Pipe Organs Report:
“...in my opinion, this instrument is dangerous and serious consideration should be given to its condition.
The location and position of the organ blower is extremely dangerous. The motor has exposed bearings and shafts that could cause serious injury.”

February 21, 2021

Organ Committee requests Executive Committee Meeting.

Week of March 8, 2021

The property developers of First Baptist Church posted a Casavant pipe organ for donation on social media. Local and national news agencies picked up the story.

First Baptist and Knox discuss need for immediate decision/action.

Jan. 26, 2021

Knox Council Selects Organ Committee:
Jean Collier
Gardia Voerman
Heather Robinson
John Lindsay-Botten

Council Executive met Feb 22, 2021 and is informed:

- First Baptist Church offering to donate a Casavant pipe organ
- Initial project cost estimates.

Organ Committee asked to:

- More clearly define costs
- Obtain long term maintenance plan/cost

Property Committee asked to:

- Obtain structural engineer report

February 22, 2021

Organ Committee submits detailed & updated report to Executive Committee:

- Detailed cost breakdown of removal and transportation from First Baptist.
- Organ weight
- Annual maintenance estimates

Asks for permission for immediate spend of \$10,000 to secure, transport and store the Casavant Pipe Organ

Council Executive approved \$10,000 expenditure:
2 dissent
6 approve
March 12 - 14, 2021

Spent to date:

Current Funds	Expenditure:	Total Funds Requested:
Organ Fund: \$12,863	Removal and transport of organ from First Baptist to Knox	\$10,000 + HST
		\$10,750 *Knox receives 50% HST as rebate

- Current organ fund balance as of Sept. 26, 2021 is estimated at \$3000

Next Steps:

- \$10,000 is needed to remove the safety hazard of the current pipe organ to ensure occupational health and safety standards are met. Fundraising will begin and will replace the money spent ASAP..
- Beyond the immediate addressing of safety concerns, the Organ Committee is not recommending any further action at this point.
- Further detailed cost analysis and review of all possible options will be presented to Council in January and brought forward to the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, 2022.



Questions?