

Cleveland, Ohio  
First Methodist Church

Votteler-Hettche relocation and revisions (1905)  
Geo. H. Ryder organ of 1874

Notes from Dr. Stephen Schnurr, edited by Joe McCabe

When the congregation moved to the present site in 1905, it contracted with the Votteler-Hettche Organ Co. of Cleveland to move the organs to the new location. Votteler-Hettche overhauled the manual windchests and added tubular-pneumatic stop and key action, "the whole resting on new framework". New tubular-pneumatic Pedal windchests were supplied. The compass of manual ranks was retained at 58 notes, 30 for the Pedal. Work was to be completed on or before July 1, 1904. The cost of the project was \$3,515.00. The contract was signed by H. B. Votteler, President of Votteler-Hettche, and Charles Bayard Mitchell and Frank E. Stevens of the church. In December 1905, the church paid \$130.00 to the Votteler-Hettche firm for repairs to the organ, as it had been "gnawed by rats."

A new, detached "consul" of oblique drawknob control was provided "of the latest design", with "push buttons and tumblers for couplers and combination movements," installed behind the pulpit platform. The pedalboard was concave. An adjustable combination action was included along with a Crescendo shoe.

A new blower and bellows were installed, the latter "double leathered" and placed "beneath the organ loft".

Tonal changes were limited to replacement of the Great 2-2/3' Twelfth with an 8' Dulciana, the Swell Mixture with an 8' A'Eolina [sic], and replacement of all manual reeds. The pitch of the organ was to be lowered from "Concert" to "International", A 435 Hz.

The extensive organ screen, forty feet high, sixty feet wide, was designed by architect Dyer and executed by the W. B. McAllister Co. of Cleveland. Hand-carved oak frames dummy pipes and life-sized reproductions of Fra Angelico's angels from his Linaiuoli Triptych.

In 1914 chimes were added. The Harp was added in 1918.