

July 3, 1979

Mrs. Stanley E. Dorsey  
405 North Street  
Greenfield, Ohio 45123

Re: First Presbyterian Church

Dear Mrs. Dorsey:

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We are pleased to submit our report regarding the condition of the pipe organ in your church. It was helpful to meet with you and your committee a few weeks ago and discuss the restoration of the organ and show Mr. Dorsey the various areas of the organ.

As we pointed out, no major work has been done on the organ since it was installed in 1904. You are indeed fortunate in not having been forced to releather the organ before this. Obviously it was extremely well built originally. Our inspection revealed the following:

1. The wind reservoir is approximately six feet wide by twelve feet long. The leather along the edges of the ribs is dried out and cracked. The old feeders which are mounted on the bottom have long since burst open from old age. We find that we can rebuild this reservoir without removing it from the organ. We would remove the old feeders and the middle stage of ribs. The balance would be completely rebuilt.
2. We removed one bottom board under the back Swell chest. Inside each stop section is a small pneumatic which controls the wind to each pipe of a given stop. There are eleven stops in the Great organ, thirteen stops in the Swell organ, and three stops in the Pedal organ. Likewise there is a similar pneumatic for each pipe of the Pedal stops. Since there are 61 keys for the Swell, 61 keys for the Great and 30 keys for the Pedal that all multiplies out to 1554 pneumatics..The leather on these pneumatics must be replaced with new sheepskins
3. There is a primary action for each chest--Swell, Great, Pedal. The pneumatics inside these actions must also be releathered.
4. Behind the console is a large coupler action which is mechanically operated by the Swell, Great, and Pedal keys. The valve board of this action has several splits in it. In winter this board dried out, the splits open a little and allow the air to leak out from one valve to another, which causes notes to speak when they aren't supposed to.

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5. The above coupler action is connected to the various primary actions (Item 3) by means of a brass or lead tube of about 3/8-inch diameter. Some of these brass tubes have split which causes leakage and notes to play when not wanted. Also, the tubes fit into the primary junctions through a gum rubber grommet. These grommets have disintegrated causing the tube to leak air a little. This also causes notes to play when not wanted.

Items 4 and 5 make up what we refer to as "pneumatic action" since the control between the console keys and the chest primaries is by air in each of the approximately 200 tubes. Now this pneumatic action could be rebuilt by repairing the splits, replacing all of the lead and brass tubing with plastic tubing and eliminating the rubber grommets, but it would be costly. It would still be a clumsy system with sometimes slow notes, the possibility of renewed splitting and possible leaks developing at tubing junctions. Rather than go to all the expense with questionable results we would recommend that the action be electrified, replacing all of the pneumatic system between the console and the chest with electro-pneumatic primary actions.

6. Electrification would consist of new manual keys fitted with contacts and coupler slides, contacts under the pedal keys, new electric draw knob actions to control the various stops and small electro-magnets placed at the primary actions to do what all the brass and lead tubes do in making the organ play. This system would improve the action making it more responsive and reliable but would not alter the wonderful tone of this fine organ in any way.
7. In addition to the releathering and electrifying of the organ the entire instrument should be cleaned. Cleaning would consist of removing all pipes, thoroughly washing them with special detergent to remove all dust and dirt, vacuum and washing all chests, expression shades, building frames, floor, etc.

Carrying out a program like this would place the organ in a like-new condition again. The cost of this work would be approximately \$35,000.00.

Your church has a fine pipe organ, well worth restoring as we have suggested. If you were to replace this instrument with a new organ of the same size the cost would be about \$108,000.00.

Mrs. Stanley E. Dorsey

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We trust this gives you the desired information. As we indicated when we met with you we could not do this work for at least two years. This, of course, will give you time to plan financially. In the meantime we would be pleased to service the organ regularly to keep it playable.

If you wish ~~us~~ to meet with your trustees to discuss this more fully please let us know.

Sincerely,

A. W. BRANDT AND COMPANY

Harold W. Weaver

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