

AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY,

HARTFORD, CONN., U. S. A.

Contract No. 255

WITH

Aberdeen M. E

Church.

Aberdeen, S. Dak.

Stops 17

Factory copies 5/14/09

Shipped 9/2/09

Finished Oct 16/09 Marshall

billed 7/27/11

4/1/11 - 1/29 - 1st to 2nd
+ add.

1

Memorandum of Agreement, made this 26th

day of

April, A. D. 1909, by and between the

Austin Organ Company, of Hartford, Connecticut, U. S. A.,

party of the first part, and Blanche H. Bushnell,

party of the second part,

WITNESSETH: The party of the first part, in consideration of the agreements herein of the party of the second part, hereby agrees to construct, erect and sell to the party of the second part a pipe organ, according to the annexed specifications, and motor and blowing gear etc. said organ to be erected complete and ready for use in the Aberdeen Methodist Episcopal Church of Aberdeen, So. Dak.

on or before the 20th day of August 1909, subject, however, to delays from fire, strikes or causes beyond the control of the party of the first part.

The party of the first part further warrants that said organ when completed shall be free from any defects in material or workmanship, and agrees that if any such defect or defects should develop within one year after completion the party of the first part will, upon written notice within such year of such defect or defects, forthwith remedy the same at its own expense.

The party of the first part further warrants that the wind pressure of said organ when completed will be unvarying under all conditions of use, that the action will be practically instantaneous in response and repetition, that the touch will not be affected by additional couplers or atmospheric variations, and that the console arrangements will be convenient and reliable in operation.

The party of the second part, in consideration of the agreements herein of the party of the first part, hereby requests the party of the first part to construct and erect said pipe organ, and agrees to purchase the same and to pay therefor the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy (\$4370.00) Dollars in New York City funds as follows:

When the principal portions of said organ are assembled in the factory of the party of the first part, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars.

Upon the delivery in the above named Church of the principal portions of said organ, or if such delivery is delayed to accommodate the party of the second part, then when the principal portions of said organ shall be constructed and ready for shipment, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars.

Upon the erection of said organ complete, in accordance herewith, the balance of said contract price, to wit, the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Dollars.

The party of the second part further agrees to have the above named Church in condition suitable and proper for the erection of said organ, including motor and blowing gear, and to permit the erection thereof at least Twenty days previous to the date fixed for the completion of the organ aforesaid, and to give to the party of the first part the exclusive use of said Church for the purpose of regulating and tuning said organ at least Twenty days previous to the date fixed for said completion.

The party of the second part further agrees at its own expense to build suitable foundation and enclosure - when necessary for motor - and blowing gear, to do all wiring or plumbing connected therewith including conductor pipe - from motor - to organ, and to install such electric lights as may be needed for the erection and future care of said organ, when and as directed by the party of the first part, and to supply necessary light, heat and power during the erection, regulating and tuning of said organ.

The party of the second part further agrees that from and after the delivery of said organ, or any parts thereof, in the above named Church, the party of the second part will, at her own expense, keep said organ and said parts insured in sound, reliable insurance companies against

Four Thousand (\$4000) ----- Dollars

in the name of and for the benefit of the parties hereto as their respective interests may appear.

It is mutually agreed that the title to and ownership of said organ shall be and remain in the party of the first part until the contract price, as heretofore stated, has been fully paid with interest upon any deferred payments at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and that upon such payment said organ shall become the property of the party of the second part.

It is mutually agreed that in case there shall arise any differences between the parties hereto regarding the completion of said organ, such differences shall, at the request of either party, be submitted to a committee of arbitration, to consist of three disinterested persons to be forthwith chosen, one by each of the parties hereto, and the third by the two so chosen, and the finding of a majority of said committee as to whether and when said organ had been fully completed in accordance with this contract shall be final and binding upon the parties hereto.

It is hereby mutually agreed that no changes, alterations or additions to this contract shall be valid unless assented to in writing by both parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hercof have interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.
First party agrees that suitable electric motor be furnished and installed of sufficient size power etc. and of a make approved by second party; That tonal effects of the organ be satisfactory; that organ be in every way first class with the very best of material and workmanship

AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY. B. Austin

Blanche H. Bushnell

SPECIFICATIONS FOR A PIPE ORGAN

TO BE BUILT ON THE

AUSTIN UNIVERSAL AIRCHEST SYSTEM.

(Patented in the United States, England and Canada.)

Two manuals, compass CC to C⁴, 61 notes. Pedal, compass CCC to G, 32 notes.

Action, Austin patent tubular pneumatic key and tubular pneumatic stop.

Console, attached : pattern, stop key : case, as organ.

Pedals, A. G. O. Willis model, concave and radiating.

Couplers, and speaking stops by stop keys over upper manual

Unisons, key cheek pistons.

Composition pistons, under respective manuals, adjustable moving registers.

Composition pedals, adjustable moving registers.

Swell box 2, 1/2" thick, double construction, stuffed, horizontal beveled shades.

Case, quartered white oak. Finish, as desired.

Design, to be submitted.

Displayed pipes, French leaf gold bronze or as desired by second party.

Blower, Direct Motor, electric.

Current, Alternating, Yes. Volts Cycles Phase. Pressure, Lbs.

Pitch, International 435 A. Wind pressure 5"

The electrician for Aberdeen Light & Power Co., advises that they furnish 220 volts. Three Phase, 60 Cycles, alternating current. First Party agrees to furnish "Orgoblo" and use slow speed and best method of installing and three phase motor.

All wood pipes are to be glue sized inside and varnished outside, with patent metal toed feet 7/8 inches up and containing voicing slides in larger bores. Metal pipes are to be of proper proportion of pure tin and pure lead for their respective tonal requirements. Basses are to be of best annealed zinc having metal toes, mouths and tuners. Reeds are to be of special design. The case-work will be of suitable design without carving or elaborate detail, provided that if any case-work of special design is required by the party of the second part, complete architect's drawings and details must be furnished within reasonable time, and the additional cost thereof shall be paid for as an extra, 50 per cent. upon delivery of the organ and the balance upon completion of the same.

PEDAL ORGAN.		Augmented.	
1. Open Diapason,	<i>2-2-3</i>	16'	32 notes, wood.
2. Bourdon, (frm. Great)	<i>usual</i>	16'	32 " "
3. Gross Flute,	<i>from 4-5</i>	8'	32 " "
4. Great to Pedal Unison.			
5. Swell to Pedal Unison.			
6. Swell to Pedal Octave.			

7-8. Two adjustable composition pedals to control Pedal stops and couplers.

GREAT ORGAN.

9. Bourdon,	<i>usual</i>	16'	73 pipes, wood.
10. Open Diapason,	<i>43</i>	8'	73 " metal.
11. Dulciana,	<i>55- soft</i>	8'	73 " "
12. Clarabella,	<i>usual soft and bass</i>	8'	73 " wood.
13. Octave,	<i>58</i>	4'	73 " metal.
14. Harmonic Flute,	<i>No. 3, soft</i>	4'	73 " "
15. Great Sub.			
16. Great Unison off.			
17. Great Octave.			
18. Swell to Great Sub.			
19. Swell to Great Unison.			
20. Swell to Great Octave.			

73
73
9.
10.
44.
32.
241.

21-24. Four adjustable composition pistons to control Great stops and couplers.

SWELL ORGAN.

25. Open Diapason,	<i>46, usual</i>	8'	73 pipes, metal.
26. Doppel Flute,	<i>usual</i>	8'	73 " wood.
27. Viole d'Orchestre,	<i>usual</i>	8'	73 " tin.
28. Viole Celeste,	<i>usual.</i>	8'	61 " "
29. Echo Salicional,	<i>61</i>	8'	73 " "
30. Flauto Traverso,	<i>usual.</i>	4'	73 " wood.
31. Flageolet,	<i>usual.</i>	2'	61 " metal.
32. Oboe,	<i>usual.</i>	8'	73 " reed.
33. Tremulant.			

2410.0
4550.0
6960.0

- 34. Swell Sub.
- 35. Swell Unison off.
- 36. Swell Octave.

37-40. Four adjustable composition pistons to control Swell stops and couplers.

ACCESSORY.

- 41. Balanced Crescendo Pedal, adjustable, not moving registers.
- 42. Balanced Swell Pedal.
- 43. Great to Pedal Reversible.
- 44. Sforzando Pedal.

AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.
SUCCESSORS TO
AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY
HARTFORD, CONN., U. S. A.

Contract No. 255-R

WITH

Methodist Episcopal Church

Aberdeen, S. D.

*Trigummed
3/15/55
WHS*

New console and related parts
to electrify Organ No. 255,
also pipes and chests to add
Choir Section.

4/29/53

Re: Order

Re: to be

4/29/53

Re: to

Re: to

Re: to

Re: to

11/4/53

Re: to

Re: to

Re: to

Re: to

RE Organ No. 255-R

3-31-54

Excerpt from letter dated 3-29-54 from Mr. J. W. Eyestone authorizing addition of Clarinet to Choir Division instead of preparation as heretofor planned:

As to the Clarinet, I have talked it over with the committee and have decided to have it installed at the same time the organ is installed. This is the proposition they make, the price is \$660. They will give you \$300. cash at the time it is installed or any time before that, the balance of \$360. they will pay on or before a year after it is installed. The ladies are taking this project on and do not want to pay any interest, but will send the \$300. immediately, if you do desire.

Stark's reply dated 3-31-54 -

Thank you kindly for your letter of March 29th authorizing the addition of the Clarinet to the organ specifications at an extra price of \$660.00.

If agreeable to you, we will add this amount to the final payment due on completion of the organ with the understanding that the ladies of the church may wish to defer payment of \$360.00 toward the price of the Clarinet until approximately a year after the installation has been completed. This could be covered by a note without interest unless they find that by the time the organ is completed, they have the \$360.00 in hand.

MEMORANDUM of AGREEMENT made this _____ day of March, 1953
by and between AUSTIN ORGANS, INC. of HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
hereinafter called Builder and the FIRST METHODIST CHURCH of
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA hereinafter called Purchaser.

WITNESSETH:

- (1) The Builder agrees to renovate and enlarge the Austin Organ in the above church, furnishing all material and labor required for the improvements and additions listed below. Said work to be started at the church on or about ~~November 1, 1953~~ or as soon thereafter as possible in the event of delays beyond his control, and proceed to completion with diligence and dispatch.

THREE manual all-electric stop-key console with a full complement of pistons and accessories, the case to be finished to harmonize with the church furnishings.

New cables to connect console with all parts of organ.

New rectifier of ample capacity to provide low voltage action current.

Complete set of electro-pneumatic unit actions for the existing organ.

Modern swell engine for the Swell Division.

Electrically driven tremolos for the Swell and Choir Divisions.

Extension of Swell Box with new door for tuning access.

New pipes and chests as necessary to bring the organ to the following specifications:

Voicing to be mild throat.
GREAT ORGAN 5" wind (outside expression)

Return	Open Diapason (new pipes T.C. up)	44(56) 1/4 M 17 R.	73 pipes
Return	Harmonic Flute (new bass octave)	52 1/2 1/8 M steel	73 " match old 7' pipes
Return	Gemshorn (New pipes throughout)	49 1/2 1/8 M 17 R 1/2 stop	73 "
Return	Octave <i>present pipes revoiced</i>	4'	73 "
	Mixture (new pipes throughout)	III Rks.	183 " see separate
	Chimes (console preparation only)	25 Tubular Bells	

SWELL ORGAN 5" wind

Return	Diapason <i>new pipes T.C. up 48 sc. (60) 1/4 M 17 R.</i>	8'	73 pipes
Return	Claribel Flute <i>old Flauto Traverso T.C. up with old Clarabella bass</i>	8'	73 pipes
Return	Salicional <i>new 58 sc. 1/5 M 17 R. (Great)</i>	8'	73 pipes
" viol	<i>Old Echo Salicional bass</i>		
"	<i>factory rescaled and revoiced</i>		
"	Voix Celeste, T. C. <i>old Echo Salic rescaled</i>	8'	73 pipes
"	<i>throughout</i>	8'	61 pipes
"	Chimney Flute (New pipes throughout)	4'	73 " 53(65) 1/4 M 18 R
"	Flautino (Old Flageolet) <i>revoiced</i>	2'	61 "
"	Trumpet (New pipes throughout)	3 7/8" scale 8'	73 "
"	Vox Humana (Console preparation only)	8'	61 "
"	Tremolo (New electrically-driven)		73 "
"	Oboe <i>old pipes factory revoiced</i>	8'	73 "

CHOIR ORGAN (All new except Dolce) ~~and Oboe~~

	Viola 52 2/9 M 17 R.	8'	73 pipes
Return	Bourdon (metal) 52 <i>new pipes T.C. up 55(67) 1/6 M 17 R 1/2 stop</i>	8'	73 "
	Dolce <i>Present Dulciana pipes revoiced</i>	8'	73 "
Koppel	Dolce Celeste, T. C.	8'	61 "
	Flute 45(57) 1/4 M 18 R.	4'	73 "
	Nazard 45(64) 3/9 M 18 R.	2-2/3'	61 "
	Block Flute 45(69) 3/9 M 18 R	2'	61 "
	Clarinet (prepared for on chest and in console)	8'	73 "
	Oboe (old Swell pipes - revoiced)	8'	73 "
	Tremolo		

(OVER)

PEDAL ORGAN

5" wind except Lieb. Gen. on 4"

omit 7
Return to pipe

Open Diapason	16'	32 pipes
Bourdon	16'	32 "
Contra Gemshorn (Gt. Ext.)		
(Prepared for in console only)	16'	12 pipes, 20 notes
Lieblich Gedeckt (Choir Ext.) #3 scale wood	16'	12 " 20 "
Octave (16' Ext.)	8'	12 " 20 "
Dolce Flute (Choir)	8'	32 notes
Super Octave (16' Ext.) 1/2 new pipes 46 (78)	4'	12 pipes, 20 notes
Bombarde) Prepared for 1/4 M. 17 R.	16')	
") in	8')	56 pipes
Clarion) console only	4')	

(2) Builder agrees that the work when completed shall be first-class, free from defects in material or workmanship and guarantees the new material for a term of five years from date of completion. This does not include tuning or ordinary care (or electric motors which are guaranteed by the manufacturers for one year).

(3) In consideration of the above the Purchaser agrees to pay to AUSTIN ORGANS, INC. or order, the sum of EIGHTEEN THOUSAND (\$18,000.00) DOLLARS as follows and all taxes which may be levied on the manufacture and sale of the above work.

FIRST PAYMENT - 25% on signing of this agreement (\$4,500.00)

SECOND PAYMENT - 25% on delivery of console and new material to the church (\$4,500.00)

THIRD PAYMENT - 50% on completion of the work, (\$9,000.00) in three equal payments, 12, 24 and 36 months.

(4) Purchaser agrees to insure the new parts against loss by fire, water, etc. as soon as the parts are placed in the building for the benefit of the parties hereto, as their interests may appear.

(5) It is mutually understood and agreed that the title to and ownership of the new material shall be and remain in the Builder until the purchase price hereinbefore mentioned has been paid in full, after which it becomes the property of the Purchaser.

Notes for payment of \$9,000.00 upon completion to bear interest at the rate of 6 percent.

AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.

By SALES REPRESENTATIVE (Builder)

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

X By Robert B. Ramond (Purchaser)

Treasurer

To conform with Foreign Corporation Laws this contract is not binding until accepted by AUSTIN ORGANS, INC. at Hartford, Conn.

AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.

By Percival Stark Vice Pres. & Treas. (Builder)

ACCEPTED:
HARTFORD, CONN.

Apr. 29, 1953.

**THE
FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**LINCOLN AT FIFTH
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Harold G. Trost
Minister**

**Frank Traver
Minister**

September 13, 1954

Austin Organ Co.
Hartford
Connecticut

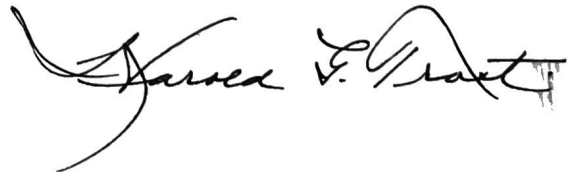
Gentlemen:

The members and friends of the First Methodist Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota, are looking forward to the dedication of our splendid Austin organ. The date for the dedication is set for Sunday, October 17. As senior minister of the church, I am writing to express my appreciation to you for the splendid instrument which will soon be available for our services of worship. Our church organist and other musicians have played the organ and have pronounced it to be the finest not only in the city, but in the entire northern part of the state. I want personally to commend Mr. Moore and Mr. Higgins. The organ was completed while I was on vacation, but I was on hand when both of these gentlemen were working together. They impressed us all with their competency and were fine fellows to have around.

In preparing for the dedication and the publicity which, of course, will be a part of the procedure, it occurred to me that you might have descriptive material concerning our organ which could be used in a newspaper story. Any suggestions that you have for such a story or for a printed dedicatory program will be of great help to us.

I know we shall be very proud of our splendid Austin organ and we shall continue to appreciate the fine cooperation and service which your organization has extended to us.

Sincerely yours,



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The organ was built by Austin Organs, Inc. of Hartford, Conn. who during the past fifty years have built some of the largest and most famous organs in the country.

It is comprised of four divisions, Swell, Great, Choir and Pedal, each played from its own keyboard in the console. There are 27 sets of speaking pipes in the instrument, embracing a total of 1683 pipes. The console is completely electric in operation and all valve motions below the pipes are produced by electric impulses travelling through copper wire cables connecting the organ and console. The expression shades which form the fronts of the Swell and Choir Division enclosures also operate through electrical means.

The specification and tonal design are a combination of the best classical and modern tonal ideas, care being taken to avoid extremes which are common in many designs today.

The Great Organ with its Diapason Chorus is based mainly on English classical lines but voiced a little more brilliantly than is traditional. The numerous flutes of the organ form a most interesting section, their construction and voicing incorporating ideas covering many centuries, resulting in an extremely wide range of tonal color.

With their warm rich tone, the very beautiful Swell strings blend perfectly with the flutes of the organ. The Swell is the most brilliant division of the organ with its Trumpet topping the flute chorus.

The Choir contains a set of flute mutations which are modified examples of the French Baroque school of design. In various combinations they impart a delicacy and charm which go to make some of the most pleasing effects of the organ.

The Pedal Organ with its several independent ranks offers a variety of bass accompaniment for the other divisions.

The organ has an exceptionally smooth build-up and a fine cohesion throughout its complete range of dynamics, from quiet background music to full magnificence. Built to the highest standards in a combination of the best in tonal design and the most modern mechanisms, it was designed, built and voiced to suit the acoustics of this church. The result is one of which both the church and the builder have just cause to be proud.

The excellent character of the Austin Organ is due in no small measure to its most favorable background.

The Austins were English born and were reared in an atmosphere of organ tone and building. Their father was an organ builder, and two organs were installed in their home, one of which was completely designed and built by the sons. Thus at an early age the essence of organ tone and organ building experience was moulded into their characters. Through the years the Austin Company has continually sought to make use of the very latest methods and equipment in the manufacture of their organs.

255

Sept. 17, 1954

Rev. Harold G. Trant
The First Methodist Church
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Trant:

It was indeed gratifying to read your letter of Sept. 13th expressing your pleasure and satisfaction with the new organ installation recently completed in your church, the First Methodist of Aberdeen, S.D.

In preparation for the dedication, we have prepared the enclosed material which you may find more voluminous than you would care to print. If so, please do not hesitate to delete any portion of it which you consider might best be omitted.

It was also good of you to speak so highly of our Messrs. Moore and Higgins. We are fortunate in having men like these to handle our field installations - not only because of their mechanical competence but also because of the personal pride which they take in every organ on which they work. We are sure you will not object if we pass your comments along to both of these men.

Many people are telling us that they consider our organs the finest being built in the United States today - not only because of their superb voicing and tone quality but also because of the remarkable mechanical design which is of such a nature that our organs seem to have a way of lasting about twice as long as any competitive instruments before they require a thorough mechanical renovation. We know your new organ can be depended upon as a source of pride and real inspiration for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.

Vice Pres. & Treas.

FS/c
Enc

Copy to Mr. Emlyn Owen

First United Methodist Church

502 SOUTH LINCOLN - PHONE 225-5680

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

57401

November 3, 1976

Austin Organs, Incorporated
Post Office Box 365
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

255A

Dear Mr. Smith,

As the interior of our church is being renovated, I thought it might not be a bad idea to let you know what maintenance procedures we are using on our Austin Organ, and hope that you will include this note in our file.

We have contracted with Don Neuman of the Neuman Organ Company, Seward, Nebraska, to have the entire instrument dismantled and stored until the painting, woodwork, and carpet men have finished their chores. When that is finished, Mr. Neuman will return, wash all the pipes, clean the wooden ones with a lemon oil preservative, clean the interior of the windchests, remove the toe boards, vacuum and wash all wooden surfaces inside and outside the instrument, replace all pipes, including the facade pipes which are to be stripped of their present gilt paint and re-painted.

He will also replace the top of low C on the Oboe 8' (sw) which has become mysteriously dislogged. He will also re-pack the stopped metal pipes with a felt material, and check the large wooden pipes and repack those stoppers where necessary.

Don says that it is a good idea to go through the action and take care of dead notes and ciphers at this time. We have not and do not have this trouble. After he assembles the organ, he will regulate and tune the instrument.

We feel that after twenty years of faithful service, it was wise to have this move taken with the organ, hoping that it will serve us for at least twenty more years.

Similar cleaning and adjustments will be made on the console, which has never been opened. I think this is quite a statement for the quality of the workmanship and the materials that Austin does.

If I had to make a criticism of this instrument, it would be made against the fan tremulants on the swell and choir divisions. Mr. Neuman says that these can be removed and a beater mechanism installed but this would result in the loss of easy access if trouble should develop. I told him that I

PASTORS

RICHARD WARD

JERRY WICKRE

EDWIN O. HESSEL

Austin Organs, Incorporated
Page 2

thought we'd better leave well enough alone on that score. That would be it, as far as criticism goes.

I am wondering, though, why felt packing was not used in certain of the stopped metal ranks; notably the chimney (rohr) flute and the koppel flute. These two are the renegades of our organ, and their staying in tune has never been dependable. It seems that they are packed with newspaper.

I like to have two major tunings each year, and one quick "touch up" tuning and the organ stays quite well in tune, except of course for the two outlaw flutes. It is dependable, and does not cipher, stick, act up, or get moody. Since the onset of the energy crisis, the temperature in the sanctuary is maintained at 62 degrees constantly. We do not raise the thermostat for Sundays or special services. Which, by the way, is not only good for the organ, but for the piano and the woodwork in general. Not to mention the altos in the church choir.

The pneumatics inside the chests are in absolute mint condition. They show no wear and are still beautifully clean.

In April 1974 Mr. Neuman installed two 1.1 hpr Meidinger blowers on this organ to replace the old Spencer which died. They are absolutely quiet in operation, even when starting.

I tell you this because all of us like our organ and would not hesitate to call upon you for another instrument when the need arises. Even our serviceman, who is an independent builder, says he can't give quality and workmanship like that. We just don't have trouble with this organ, and that is nice.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Jude M. Borgesen

Jude M. Borgesen, B.A., M.A.
Organist

JMB/st

Since 1893

FREDERIC B. AUSTIN
RICHARD J. PIPER
DONALD B. AUSTIN



FREDERICK L. MITCHELL
ALLEN R. MILLER

AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.
ORGAN ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

CONTROLLING EXCLUSIVELY ALL AUSTIN PATENTS

HARTFORD, CONN. 06101

November 11, 1975

Mr. Jude M. Borgesen, Organist
First United Methodist Church
502 South Lincoln
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

RE: AUSTIN ORGAN, OPUS NO. 255A

Dear Mr. Borgesen:

Thank you for your letter of November 3, 1975, indicating the church's plans for renovating the interior of the sanctuary. Your letter will be kept in our file. However, at this point we feel that a few comments may be helpful to you.

Although your letter indicates that the entire organ is to be dismantled and stored until the renovation is completed, we assume that the dismantling does not include removal of the basic structure of the organ, but simply taking out the pipes and possibly disconnecting the console.

Unless you are planning to relocate the organ, you would be well-advised to leave the chests in place and simply seal them off from dust and moisture with plastic sheeting and masking tape. Removing and reinstalling windchests is a costly and time-consuming procedure which requires a knowledge of Austin organ installation techniques.

Incidentally, your letter indicates that you may not be aware of the fact that the organ structure is much older than the twenty years you mention. The organ is our opus number 255, built in 1909. In 1954, the organ was completely rebuilt mechanically and also tonally modernized. A new Choir division and a new, 3-manual console were added at the same time. Thus, the Austin organ has actually given the church 66 years of reliable service—quite an outstanding record, considering the longevity record of most pipe organs.