

Luther Memorial Church Pipe Organ Task Force

Background

Key Findings

Recommendation



Why Now?



- ◇ December 2019 council directive to study potential facility projects
- ◇ Austin Organ installed 55 years ago and will require restoration or replacement



Austin Pneumatics



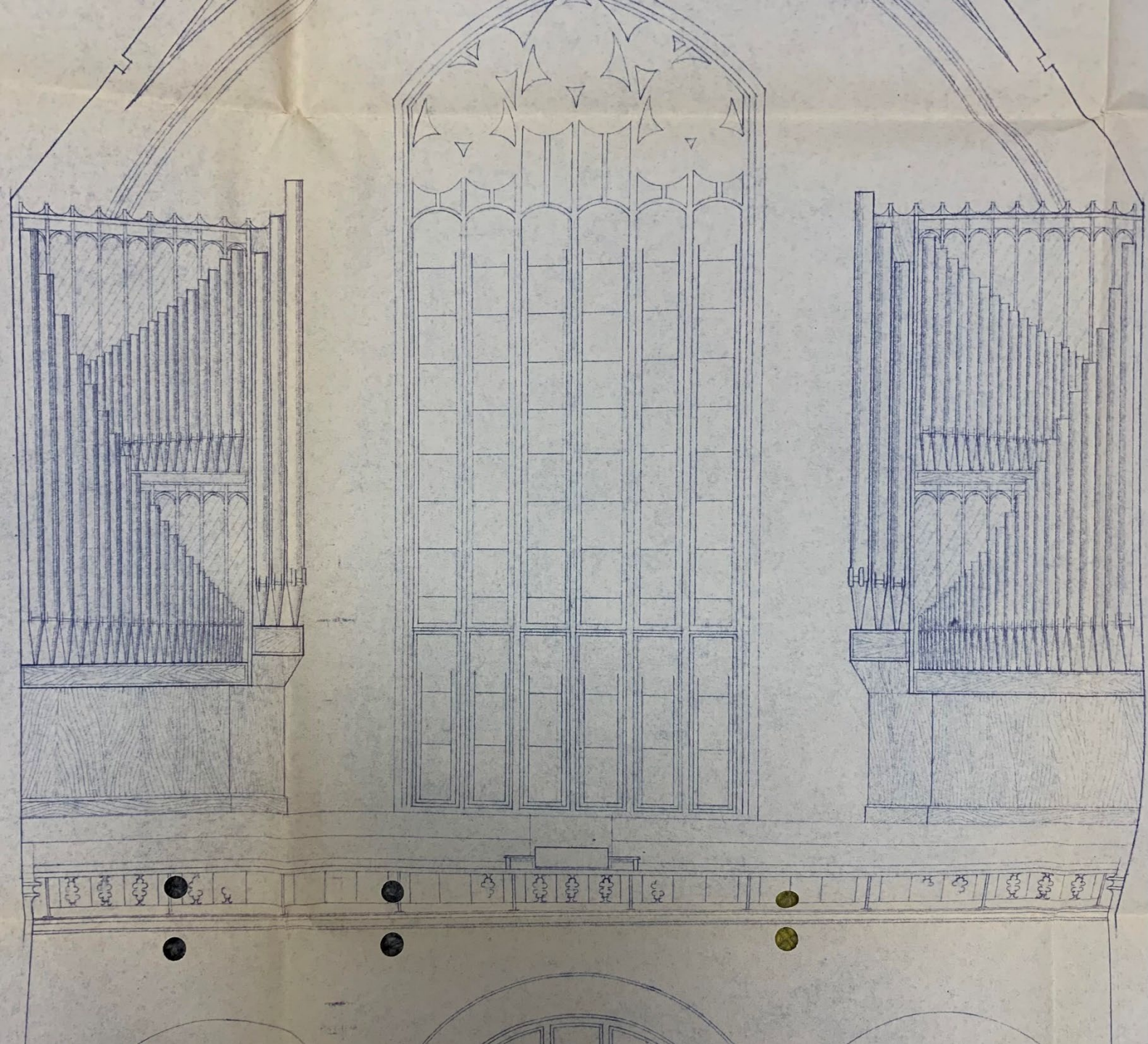


Dust and Dirt

Failing Reservoirs



An Incomplete
Organ



Pipe Organ Task Force Formed

- ◇ Sandy Erickson, *Chair*
- ◇ Barb Hughes, *Chair*
- ◇ Bob Brod
- ◇ Peter Mahler
- ◇ Casey Oelkers
- ◇ Rev. Peter Sherven
- ◇ John Chappell “Chappy” Stowe,
Consultant
- ◇ Rev. Brad Pohlman, *Pastor*
- ◇ Andrew Schaeffer, *Director of
Music*

A Big Surprise

- ◇ Major anonymous gift announced
 - ◇ Specifically for a new pipe organ
- ◇ Changed the scope of our deliberations
- ◇ Three goals
 - ◇ Professionally evaluate Austin
 - ◇ Investigate purchasing a recycled organ
 - ◇ Investigate a new pipe organ



Renewing the Austin Organ

- ◇ Engaged Foley-Baker, Inc., to craft proposal, which included the following:
 - ◇ Restoring the mechanisms
 - ◇ Thoroughly cleaning the instrument
 - ◇ Adding stops omitted in 1966
 - ◇ Completing the façade
- ◇ Cost: \$500,000-\$750,000 depending on ultimate scope





Historic Organ

- ◇ Worked with John Bishop of the Organ Clearing House
- ◇ Identified 1893 Roosevelt organ in New York City
- ◇ Luther Memorial visit and consultation
- ◇ Foley-Baker visit to Luther Memorial

Roosevelt Report

- ◆ Prepared by Foley-Baker, Inc.
- ◆ Proposal included:
 - ◆ Removal of instrument from NYC
 - ◆ Full restoration
 - ◆ Reconfiguration for Luther Memorial's space
 - ◆ Installation
- ◆ Cost: \$2.4 million
- ◆ Conclusion: Costly, and the organ was not the right aesthetic match for our needs

A New Organ

- ◇ First step: survey organ firms and identify what type of organ we need
- ◇ Identified five builders to investigate
 - ◇ M. L. Bigelow Organbuilders
 - ◇ C. B. Fisk
 - ◇ Juget-Sinclair Organbuilders
 - ◇ Pasi Organbuilders
 - ◇ Taylor and Boody Organbuilders



World Travelers!

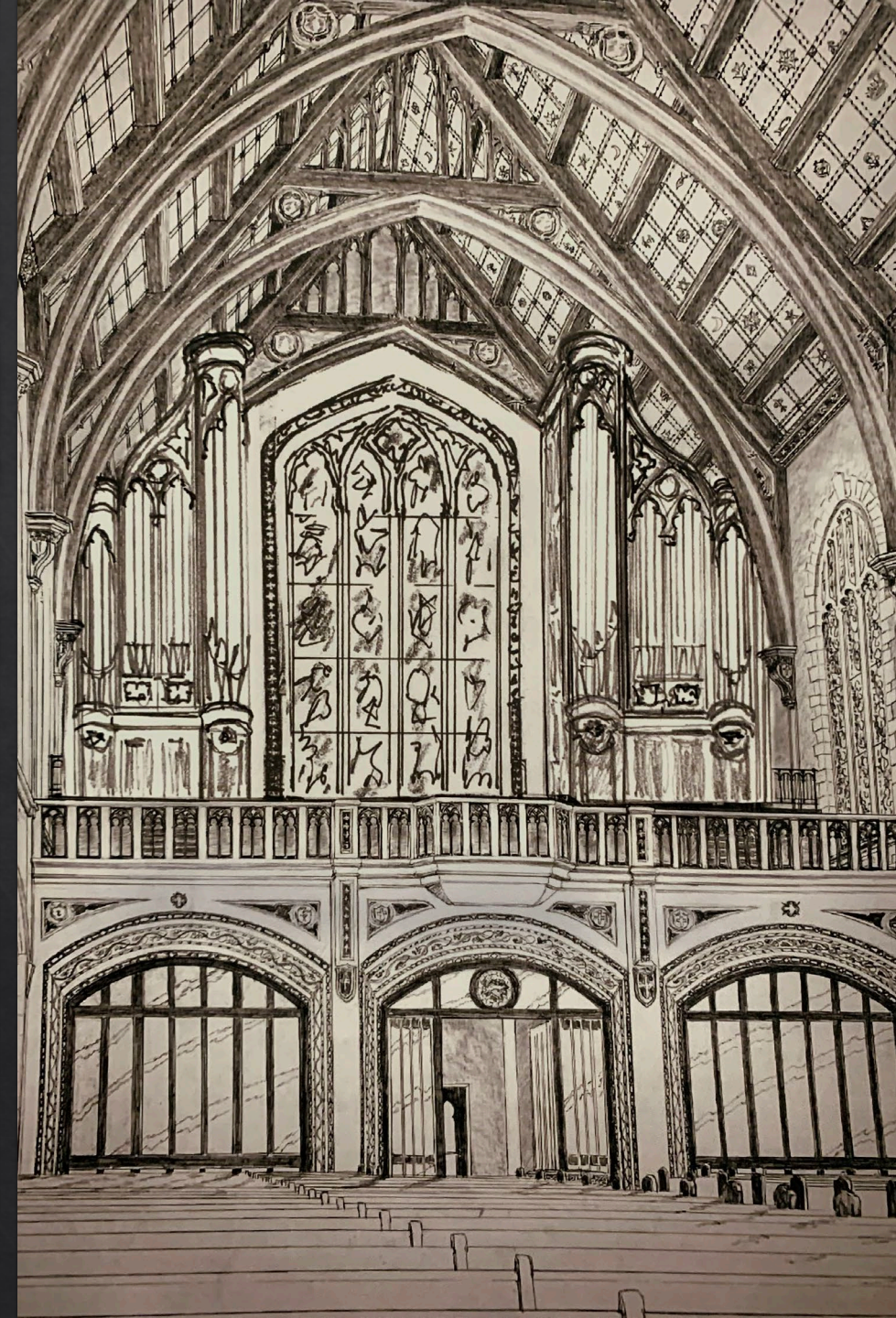
- ◇ Committee Members visited instruments in the following cities:
 - ◇ Chicago, Illinois
 - ◇ Madison, Wisconsin
 - ◇ Muscatine, Iowa
 - ◇ St. Louis, Missouri
 - ◇ Winnetka, Illinois

Three Finalists

- ◇ Following visits and after extensive deliberations, proposals invited from:
 - ◇ C. B. Fisk
 - ◇ Juget-Sinclair
 - ◇ Taylor & Boody
- ◇ Each engaged in extensive conversations with Chappy and Andrew

C. B. Fisk

- ◆ Initially proposed a 71-rank organ
 - ◆ (Current Austin organ is 56 ranks)
 - ◆ A rank is a set of pipes
 - ◆ Original Cost: \$3.2 million, inclusive
- ◆ Revised proposal: 67-rank organ
- ◆ Delivery in 2022
- ◆ Cost: \$2.85 million, inclusive



Juget-Sinclair

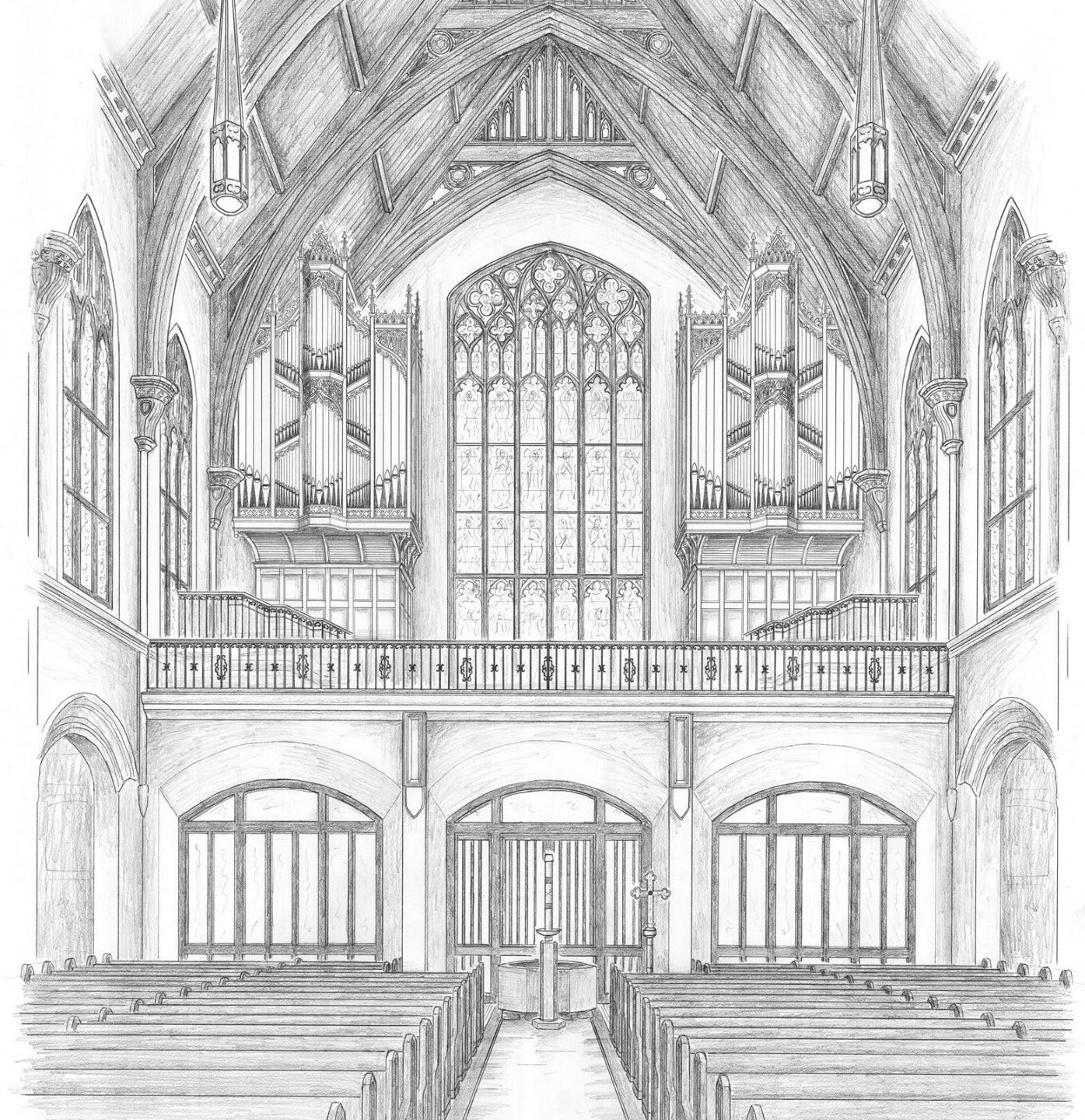


- ◇ Proposed a 75-rank organ
- ◇ Delivery in late 2028-early 2029
- ◇ Cost: \$2.3 million, inclusive

Opus 52, Wauwatosa, WI

Taylor & Boody

- ◆ Proposed a 75-rank organ
- ◆ Completion mid-2026
- ◆ Cost: \$2.63 million inclusive



Recommendation

- ◆ The committee recommends the proposal put forth by Taylor & Boody organbuilders of Staunton, Virginia





Why Taylor & Boody?

- ◇ Most creative proposal
- ◇ Sympathetic to Luther Memorial's Heritage

Balcony Work

- ◇ Restoration of north walls covered by the Austin organ
- ◇ New, more efficient lighting/relocation of lighting panels
- ◇ Insulation for west blower room
- ◇ HVAC work
- ◇ Modification of risers



A Long-held Dream



1997 Proposed Organ

- ◇ New organ first proposed in 1996
- ◇ *Building for Belonging* groundwork
- ◇ Organ fund established upon Bruce Bengtson's retirement

Fundraising Update

- ◇ Anonymous gift, pledges, & existing Luther Memorial Organ fund: ~\$2 million
- ◇ Remaining: ~\$600,000
 - ◇ Cost to restore Austin organ: \$500,000-\$750,000
 - ◇ Anonymous gift *may not* be used for that purpose
- ◇ All members of the organ committee have agreed to support the organ project financially

Taylor & Boody Financial Summary

TOTAL COSTS – Including Construction and Installation	\$2,485,000
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DEPOSIT (August 2021)	\$1,500,000
CONSTRUCTION (2025-2026)	\$736,000
<i>10 monthly payments of \$73,650</i>	
INSTALLATION (May – September 2026)	\$0
FINAL PAYMENT (September 2026)	\$248,000
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ADDITIONAL COSTS: Site Preparation	\$125,000--\$150,000

Resolution

- ◆ The congregation of Luther Memorial Church hereby approves a \$2,485,000 contract with Taylor & Boody Organbuilders of Staunton, Virginia to build a pipe organ for Luther Memorial Church, with all shipping and installation expenses as described in paragraph (3) of the contract included in said contract price and said contract price to be exempted from any and all surcharges for cost of living (COLA) increases. Further, that the Congregation Council is authorized to spend necessary dollars for costs to prepare the rear (north) balcony for installation (estimated to be between \$125,000 and \$150,000) and any costs to remove the current Austin Organ.



Questions

