

2/6/86 Board of Control

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FACULTY TO THE BOARD OF CONTROL  
CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF A

PIPE ORGAN

IN THE SEMINARY CHAPEL

**RATIONALE**

I. The Organ

A. Present Pipe Organ

The pipe organ which presently leads the worship of the Seminary family was built by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois and installed in 1949 by the United Organ Company of Milwaukee at a cost of \$8300. It is an organ of 23 voices (stops) and 10 ranks and is voiced in the romantic style.

The Wicks organ is in need of a major rebuilding effort. The action of the console is becoming less and less dependable and, therefore, more and more difficult to play. The electrical action needs a complete reworking. The pipes need to be cleaned and revoiced.

If this were the only problem with the present organ, good stewardship might dictate that the problem be solved by a rebuilding project. However, its disrepair is not the organ's only problem. Because of its romantic voicing, its stop selection and its placement into a room with acoustical difficulties, it is no longer considered to be an adequate instrument for leading the Seminary's daily worship.

B. A New Pipe Organ

This point of view is not a new one on Seminary Hill. Already during the late 1950's monies began to be set aside in an Organ Fund. While most of what was saved during those years was spent on other projects, the fund was reestablished when Professor Martin Albrecht arrived on campus in 1962. In the 23 years since, offerings to the Organ Fund have exceeded \$30,000.

Despite the fact that monies were flowing into the organ fund, the new organ project was never begun. Primary among the causes for this was an indecision concerning the Chapel itself. It seemed unwise to build a Chapel Organ if the chapel were to be enlarged or even replaced by a larger building.

The determination to construct the Auditorium/Gymnasium allows the project to proceed. It seems highly unlikely that the present chapel will be enlarged or replaced in the foreseeable future.

C. The New Pipe Organ

The new organ which comes to stand in the Seminary Chapel should have as its primary function the leading of the worship of the Seminary family. Therefore, it should be able to:

1. support the rousing singing of 200+ male voices,
2. afford the opportunity for the performance of devotional and inspirational organ music which is Lutheran in character,
3. be played by average as well as gifted organists, and
4. overcome the difficult acoustical problems of the Chapel.

The new organ must also be able to function as a teaching tool. Our pastoral students should gain first hand knowledge of what is considered to be the ideal for the leading and support of Lutheran worship.

Finally, although not a primary function, the new Chapel organ might be envisioned as the core around which an expanded music program would function. Such an expansion may be very advantageous, since worship opportunities and musical performances are likely the most important public relations tool of the Seminary--besides our graduates themselves! Although the chapel will never be able to be used for Christmas and Commencement concerts, many other sorts of services might be held there eventually.

With all this in mind, the new Chapel Organ at the Seminary should be:

1. TYPE.....Classical (North German voicing)
2. ACTION.....Mechanical (tracker) *less maintenance*
3. SIZE.....10-15 voices (stops); 15-25 ranks (sets of pipes)
4. PLACEMENT.....back wall (south) of the Seminary Chapel (likely removal of SE storage closet and back wall radiators). The organ should be built with a "moving" capability in the event the Chapel is "turned around" at any time in the future.
5. INSTALLATION..The beginning of the 1988-89 school year.

A reputable organ consultant should be retained and an organ committee established. After careful study, the consultant and the committee will recommend to the Board of Control an organ builder. Thereupon a contract will be signed. The consultant, the committee and the builder then will develop specifications for the organ. We can expect that a reputable builder will complete the project in under two years.

*(the console should be put into an alcove to save space)*

*electro-magnetic instead(?) - that way it would be put into an alcove to save space*

*the father organ*

*15  
75  
75  
105  
\$112,500*

*IP on mechanical action - advantages*

## II. Funding the Project

### A. Cost and Payment Timetable

The cost for the instrument described in the paragraphs above will be somewhere in the area between \$100,000 and \$125,000. Most consultants charge about 3% of the total cost of the instrument.

We understand that one-half of the builder's fee is payable at the time of the signing of the contract, the other one-half at the time of installation. A consultant's fees are divided by thirds over the time-table of the project.

At present we have in our Organ Fund a little more than \$30,000. To complete this project will require receiving monies of between \$70,000 and \$95,000.

### B. Funding the Project

We believe that a fund raising effort for a Chapel organ should not be highly visible nor should "need" have much of a part in the presentation of the project. We feel a low-key approach is best and that invitations to participate in the offerings ought to be extended primarily to WLS graduates, long-time friends of the Seminary, and members of synod who are interested in worship and the arts.

In an accompanying recommendation the Seminary Faculty suggests to the Seminary Board that the Chapel Organ be seen as the major "project" of a thankoffering to be gathered on the occasion of the Seminary's 125th Anniversary. This anniversary falls during the 1988-89 school year.

Should the Board agree with this recommendation, (and should the Conference of Presidents allow the offering) the following are proposed to serve to justify and encourage gifts for this offering:

1. Announce the anniversary and its thankoffering and organ project in the Preface to the 1987 Quarterly.
2. Include in that volume two articles: one on the pastor's training in leading the worship of the church and another on the history and role of the organ in Lutheran worship.
3. Send a letter to all WLS graduates during the summer of 1987 inviting them to participate in the offering and giving specifications of the new instrument and summaries of the Quarterly articles. These pastors will also be invited to share this information with their congregations or with members whom they consider would be interested in the project (include with this mailing a newsletter type paragraph).

4. Send a follow-up letter in January 1988.
5. Increase awareness of the organ project in all concerts and services at the Seminary and during Chorus tours.
6. Place in The Northwestern Lutheran four low-key announcements which announce the project to any who might be interested. (June 86, Jan 87, June 87, Jan 88)
7. Run anniversary articles <sup>with the N.L.S.</sup> during the fall of 1988 and invite gifts if monies not raised yet.
8. Advise the WLS Auxiliary of the project beginning in Fall 1986.

It must be understood at the outset that we cannot gauge what the amount of the offering will be. While we judge this to be a highly popular project, it could happen that the total will not be reached before installation. Therefore, to make this project possible, the Board of Control must be ready to release funds from some source (likely the earnings of the Seminary trust funds) in the event that offering monies are not sufficient to cover the cost of the organ and the consultant. Even if offerings do cover the complete cost, some "other source" monies likely will have to be used for the initial payment to the organ builder.

Should total thankoffering gifts not cover total organ costs, additional offerings at chorus concerts could be stipulated for loan repayment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Seminary Faculty respectfully recommends to the Board of Control:

- A. That the Board approve the building of a classically voiced, ~~mechanical action pipe organ as described in the notes above.~~
- B. *Profoundly mechanical action*
- C. That the Board designate this organ project as the recipient of a thankoffering on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Seminary.
- D. That the Board petition the Conference of Presidents to allow the announcement of said thankoffering among the graduates and friends of the Seminary. *with the N.L.S.*
- E. That the Board direct the Seminary Business Manager to arrange for the possible release of Seminary trust funds ~~earnings~~ in the event that gifts fail to cover initial and/or final expenses. *take up of underpaid gifts*
- F. That the Board grant permission to the Faculty to appoint an Organ Committee

