



First Parish Organ Committee
Congregational Meeting on
Rebuilding and Reconfiguring
Our Organ

November 27, 2007

Announcing Today....

- 1. We will have a newly configured organ consistent with the decisions of the congregation.**
- 2. We are within the authorized budget.**
- 3. We have an outstanding organ builder.**
- 4. The construction will be between January 2009 – and October/November 2009.**

What We Will Cover Today



- I. Background – Why We Are Doing This**
- II. Our Process – How We Got To Today**
- III. Our New Organ Design – What We’re Getting**
- IV. Discussion**

I. Background – Why We Are Doing This

Many “Hands” Have “Carried” Us to This Point:

Organ Study Committee 1999:

- Hugo Logemann
- Rick Moore
- Beth Norton
- Pat Cummings
- Spencer Morfit
- Barbara Tollman
- Bernie Schlager
- Timothy Warren
- Sally Reed

Organ Action Committee 2000:

- Tim Blodgett
- Dave Dawson
- John Esty
- Tammie Foote
- Ross Harris
- Eric Huenneke, ex officio
- Rick Moore
- Beth Norton, ex officio

Many people have cared for our organ:

- Andover Organ
- E. M. Skinner
- Hugo Logeman
- Foley Baker
- Allen Hill

Organ Assessment

2000: Marshall Ogletree Associates

Acoustic Task Force 2003:

- Holly Cratsley
- Patrick Everett
- Dave Kelch
- George King
- Peter Mitchell
- Rick Moore
- Alan Whitney



2005 Vision -- Music Ministry: Beth Norton

Feasibility Study 2004:

Foley-Baker Inc. –
Jon Norbut, and Alan Hill

Consultant Review

2001:
Charles Callahan

Organ Assessment 1999:

Charles Bolton Organ Builders

Organ Assessment 1999:

Austin Organ Co -- Brent Buchanan, VP Tonal

Assessment of the Acoustics 1999:

Acentech Inc: Rein Pim, Supervisory Consultant

Consultant Review 2002:

Jonathan Ambrosino

**Capital Campaign –
“Come Build a Dream”**

I. Background – Why We Are Doing This

Primary Findings from Previous Organ Studies:

1. The current wind chest creates distracting background noise and variable sound levels. It needs major repair.
2. The layout of the organ chamber and conditions of the pipes are causing the music to become “muddled.” This is an organ, not an acoustical, problem.
3. Many pipes are fatigued and cannot be tuned, repaired or replaced because of the current layout.
4. Maintaining and servicing the organ is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. Many areas are inaccessible or dangerous to climb around – for the person and the instrument.
5. The console needs to be rebuilt or replaced.

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

The Congregation chartered this Committee to select the design and company that will give us the greatest value:

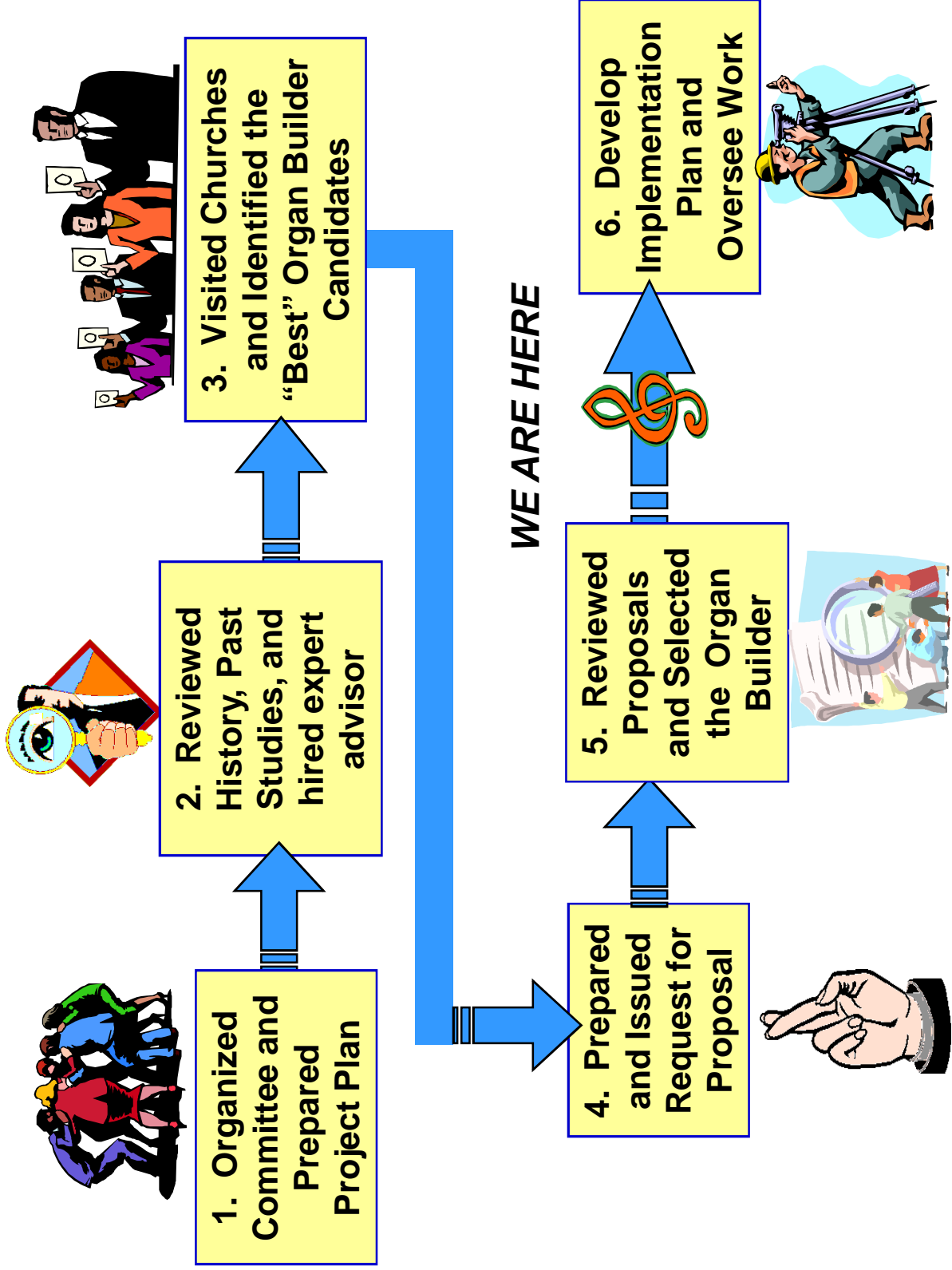
1. Develop a plan and the requirements to rebuild and reconfigure the pipe organ and refurbish its console based on the 2004 Feasibility Study benchmark.
2. Identify a list of companies that meets the Committee's qualifications to work on a project of this nature.
3. Obtain proposals from the finalist companies, evaluate their proposals, and select the best qualified one for the Church.

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

The Members of the Organ Committee:

<i>Sara Ballard</i>	-- <i>Standing Committee member</i>
<i>Rebecca Curzon</i>	-- <i>Co-Chair</i>
<i>Tammie Foote</i>	-- <i>Former member of the previous organ committees</i>
<i>Eric Huenneke</i>	-- <i>Our current Organist</i>
<i>Rick Moore</i>	-- <i>Former members of previous organ committees and the Acoustics Task Force</i>
<i>Beth Norton</i>	-- <i>Director of Music</i>
<i>Tom Wilson</i>	-- <i>Co-Chair</i>
<i>Melissa Gallo</i>	-- <i>Representative for the Capital Campaign Committee</i>
<i>Don Dembsey</i>	-- <i>Original Representative for Capital Campaign</i>
<i>Richard Fortier</i>	-- <i>Representative for the Capital Campaign Committee</i>

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today



II. Our Process – How We Got to Today



Our Expert Advisor: Stuart Forster

- ❖ Provided technical expertise, industry knowledge, and collaborative guidance needed for our committee.
- ❖ 10-years service as an organ consultant, with in-depth experience in both leading and assisting other churches in their reconfiguration efforts.
- ❖ Renowned church organist, musician and dedicated to expressing text through music -- Director of Music, Organist at Christ Church, Cambridge, since 1999. Two degrees from Yale; Fellow in Church Music at Christ Church, New Haven.
- ❖ Major awards: University of Sydney; Sydney Conservatorium of Music; Trinity College of Music, London; 1994 Sydney International Organ Competitions; University of Sydney Organ Scholarship; Ruth and Paul Manz Organ Scholarship.

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

We Visited Six Churches...



Ranks of Pipes



Ranks of Pipes



Wind Chest



Wind Chest with Air Pipes

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

Evaluation Criteria for the Organ Proposals

- 1. Music program**
- 2. Repertoire of the musical literature**
- 3. Organ configuration**
- 4. Technical approach**
- 5. Best use of existing assets**
- 6. The console**
- 7. Tonal egress**
- 8. Balcony configuration**
- 9. History**
- 10. Quality**
- 11. Creativity**
- 12. Overall value**

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

Our Evaluation Criteria for the Organ Proposals:

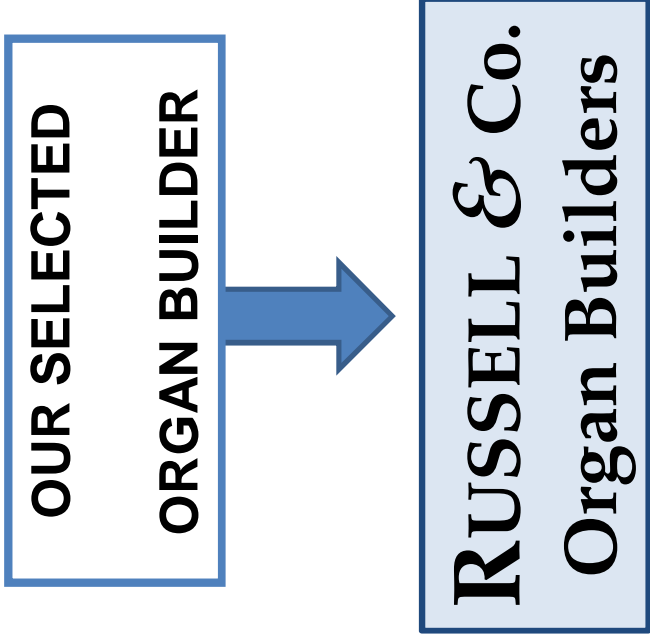
1. Music Program	Thoughtfully addresses the programmatic needs of First Parish, and provides the best range possible within the design of the organ.
2. Repertoire	Able to produce the desired range of musical literature and roles for the organ.
3. Organ Configuration	Makes the best use of the space within the organ for creating sound and being maintained.
4. Technical Approach	Uses reliable designs, layout, pipes and equipment effectively.
5. Makes Best Use of Existing Assets	Makes good use of what we have that works or is valuable to First Parish.
6. Console	Provides for a newly functioning console with all required specifications.

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today

Our Evaluation Criteria for the Organ Proposals:

7. Tonal Egress	Provides the optimal distribution and flow of the sound from the chamber to the sanctuary.
8. Balcony Configuration	Optimally utilizes the space in the balcony.
9. Historical Preservation	Maintains those element of true historical value to the church in the organ.
10. Quality	Will produce a high quality instrument – the design, materials, capabilities and appearance.
11. Creativity	Provides a highly effective solution to our situation and requirements.
12. Overall Cost to Value Ratio	Achieves our goals within the budget and provides the best return on this investment for the long-term.

II. Our Process – How We Got to Today



III. Our New Organ Design – What We’re Getting

Russell & Company Organ Builders

Founded 1976

Located in Chester, VT

www.russellorgans.com

Some of their customers include:

First Unitarian Church, Worcester, MA
First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY
Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rutland, VT
Memorial Methodist Church, Taunton, MA
First Baptist Church, Worcester, MA
St. Matthews, Bedford, NY
St. James Church, Setauket, NY

Introducing Steve Russell . . .

III. Our New Organ Design – What We’re Getting

This winning design:

1. **Retains an all pipe organ with the American & European classical tonal design.**
2. **Provides more space in the balcony by moving the façade back about 4’ and installing pipes on the back wall of the balcony above the cabinets.**
3. **Builds custom designed, stacked wind chests and repairs or replaces organ pipes with highly accessible layout.**
4. **Creates a 3-manual organ with 44 ranks (currently 37 ranks)**
5. **Provides a new movable console with MIDI connection – located to the side of the balcony.**

III. Our New Organ Design – What We’re Getting

This winning design meets our criteria best:

- 1. Music Program:** Increases music capabilities and use of space.
- 2. Organ Configuration:** Easy access for tuning and maintenance.
- 3. Re-use of Existing Assets:** Uses current façade case with thoughtful use of existing pipe work.
- 4. Balcony Configuration:** Utilizes the full balcony and organ design to improve the tonal egress.
Provides more space in balcony for choirs, programs and seating.
- 5. Overall Value:** Provides the best design and greatest value.

“It is no longer just a pipe dream!”



CURRENT

“It is no longer just a pipe dream!”

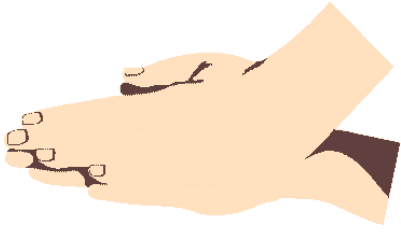


* Illustrative rendering of the reconfigured organ.

FUTURE*

IV. Discussion

Questions, Comments and Discussion



THANK YOU

