



FLBCS Music Ministry

AFLC Development Department Giving Opportunity for FLBCS*

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary exists to establish students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom.

Organ Repair and Maintenance



Wicks 35 Rank Pipe Organ

Since its installation in 2007, FLBCS has been blessed with the Wicks organ. It has provided wonderful music for hundreds of chapel services, many Christmas and Spring Concerts, weddings, funerals, and a few organ recitals.

As this organ settles into our space, and as organ technicians tune, maintain, and repair this organ, they are finding complications that are beyond yearly budget maintenance numbers. Some proposed organ projects would allow the organ to be run more efficiently, tuned quicker, and played with a more rounded, even sound.

The biggest need involves replacing all of the magnets under each pipe. Over the last few years, we have incurred a great number of ciphers (notes continuing to sound after they have been played). From our organ technicians:

The Wicks action should not cipher like this organ does... We now believe that most ciphers are caused by the effects of storage in a barn for so many years. There is dirt in the wind system that gets on the valve pads causing one type of cipher that comes and goes. The pivot pins in the chest action have also started to rust. The end result is the same – the valve pads do not close and random pipes continue playing when the notes are released.

We've tried lubricating the pins, but all we get is a red residue (rust) and the pivots do not free up. This leads to our conclusion, that the only definitive repair to the cipher problem is to replace the magnets that were exposed to dirt and moisture during the storage [prior to being given to the FLBCS Chapel].

Organ Repair and Maintenance

A history of the organ and a more detailed recommendation of repairs listed below is available upon request.

Summary of Proposed Organ Projects

1. Replace magnets in both Great wind chests ...[Completed](#)
2. Revoice Great ...[Completed](#)
3. Paint visible Great zinc pipes silver ...[Completed](#)
4. Replace Great mixture, alter toeboard as necessary ...[Completed](#)
5. Replace magnets on both Positiv wind chests, Pedal treble chest ...[Completed](#)
6. Replace Positiv Cymbal with a lower pitch and smaller scale ...[Completed](#)
7. Replace Positiv Holzregal with a Musete (currently in our stock) ...[Completed](#)
8. Revoice Positiv ...[Completed](#)

9. Replace magnets on single Swell chest
10. Restore Swell Trumpet/Trombone extension (Chris Broome)
11. Replace Wicks shade motors in the Swell with a Peterson RC-150; gang shutters
*Note in picture on front page one shutter that is not open. This item would allow all shutters to move consistently together and fix this faulty shutter.
12. Revoice Swell
13. Replace Swell Rohrschalmei with new 8' Oboe
14. Replace magnets on single Choir chest
15. Replace Wicks shade motors in the Choir with a Peterson RC-150; gang shutters
16. Revoice Choir
17. Replace magnets in Pedal bass chests (central area)

Procedure & Pricing

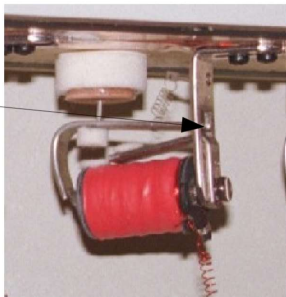
It is possible to do these projects in steps, grouped by pipe registration division, as the funds become available. Items refer to the numbers on the numbers above.

1. **Great \$19,800:** Items 1-4 ...[Completed](#)
2. **Positiv/Pedal Treble \$16,800:** Items 5-8 ...[Completed](#)
3. **Swell \$34,600:** Items 9-12
4. **New Swell Oboe \$22,200:** Item 13
5. **Choir \$15,000:** Items 14-16
6. **Central Pedal \$17,000:** Item 17

Total: \$125,400

Less: (36,600) items 1-8 completed

Balance needed: \$88,800



*Illustration 1: Wicks chest magnet.
Note the tiny coil spring to bring the pad back to "closed" position.*



*Illustration 2: Peterson version of chest magnet.
Note the more robust coil spring.*

***Data provided to AFLC Development Department by FLBCS 9.28.23**