

First Presbyterian Church of Barberton

http://www.fpcbarberton.org/



Summary

The First Presbyterian Church of Barberton traces its history back to 1892. The church is located in the heart of Barberton, Ohio. Being that their worship focuses on the music ministry, the congregation's affinity for the pipe organ caused them to vote to fully restore it.

The Specific Challenge: Full Pipe Organ Renovation

The pipe organ of the First Presbyterian Church of Barberton was built and installed in the early 1930's, shortly after construction of the church. From church records, it is evident that the organ underwent modest repairs over the course of its first 40 years of service.

Reverend Richard Lapehn was told that in the 1970's there were more significant repairs attempted. Now, forty years after those more recent repairs, the pipe organ is again showing its age. Nonfunctional pipes, aging wiring, and anachronistic coupling all contributed to the present need for a full renovation of the pipe organ.

The Leek Pipe Organ Company was chosen for three reasons

- Good reputation for quality work;
- Proximity to the church location:
- Fair pricing and the promise of a work guarantee.

Phased Restoration to Meet Goal

After an initial fact-finding trip, James Leek personally made a presentation to a dozen stakeholders in the First Presbyterian Church congregation. He explained using a spectrum of what needed to be done from the very least to what could possibly be accomplished if the willingness and finances would follow.

Mr. Leek offered the congregation a tour of his facility and gave them personal contact to his office and himself. The staff of Leek Pipe Organ Company has always responded quickly and efficiently to any concerns or questions raised.

We found the Leek Pipe Organ Company team to be friendly and responsive, helpful and sensitive.

Completion of Phase 1 (2016)

The fist half of the project (Phase 1) is complete. It was completed on time and within budget. The re-installation of the pipe organ console was thorough and professional. The Leek Pipe Organ Company employees have always left their work areas as clean or cleaner than they found them when they arrived. They have likewise been utterly respectful about needed changes to their schedule due to an

unexpected funeral or church event.. The console is working beautifully now, and the problems with the keyboard have been solved entirely.

As Reverend Richard Lapehn stated, "Wholeheartedly, yes, I would recommend Leek Pipe Organ Company."



Start of Phase 2 (2016-2017)

Phase two will start this fall and require Leek to rebuild the offset chests and the main chest components, pipe by pipe. He will inspect and clean each pipe and re-leather the pipe stoppers as needed. He will rebuild wind chests, re-leather valves/ pneumatics and regulate motors for proper operation.

Although phase one is complete, it is upon completion of phase two that the full tonal palette will be expressed. The congregation looks forward to hearing it in its former glory. "We anticipate hearing in the future the sound and power of our mighty pipe organ," Lapehn said.

To view photos of the work in progress and learn more, http://www.leekpipeorgans.com/codeless_portfolio/schantz-console-wind-chest/