

February 2012 Organ Update

Since the decision by council a year ago to purchase the University Hills 1987 III/43 McManis pipe organ, much has transpired as the music committee has invested time and research into determining the next steps for Calvary. Here is a brief recap of our process and purchase:

- Purchased the 1987 III (manuals)/43 (ranks) pipe organ in January 2011 for \$5,000
- Estimated retail value if designed today: \$800,000
- Organ was uninstalled and relocated from University Hills Baptist Church in February 2011 by local organ builder, Morel & Associates, Inc.
- Following the move, a small percentage of the 2,600 pipes and chests are in storage on location at Calvary while a significant percentage remains in storage at the Morel & Associates, Inc. workshop
- The organ console can be seen at the front of the sanctuary

Our current instrument will turn 41 years old this year, and the initial reasons for moving forward with the purchase of another pipe organ have become transparent as the committee and I have solicited evaluations of our current organ as well as proposals for the installation of the University Hills (now Calvary) organ. The committee sought proposals from four selected organ builders, both nationally and locally based.

As with nearly every proposal process, bids came in at varying figures across a rather wide range as many variables affected these costs: transportation, labor, 'brand' recognition, aesthetics, and quality. While documents dated to 2002 estimated nearly \$234,000 to refurbish our current organ, we were pleased to find that two of the 2011 bids for the installation of the new organ quoted costs less than this figure due to the exceptional quality of the instrument we purchased.

Following the receipt and review of these proposals, the committee unanimously reached a recommendation to select Morel & Associates, Inc. of Denver, Colo., as the builder with whom to complete the potential project: Morel & Associates, Inc. provided the most complete bid and offered the best understanding of our congregation, instruments, and needs. With a bid range of \$180,000–220,000, they offered competitive pricing, comprehensive design capabilities, and had the best availability. Additionally, this builder serviced the organ while in use at University Hills and currently services our present pipe organ. Morel's bid includes the cost of installation of the pipes, reformatting the console for mobility, and tonal design. The bid does not include the cost of removing the current pipe organ. **See possible design ideas on page 2.**

Additionally, Calvary has been approached by a church in Laramie, Wyo., that is walking through a similar process by pursuing another pipe organ for their congregation. Having heard about our current status of having two pipe organs and envisioning the installation of the newer instrument, they have begun conversations with us inquiring the usage of our current organ if we were to install the new organ. They have much interest in our 1971 III/30 pipe organ and would love to see it used and played in their sanctuary. This is a potential opportunity for us to establish the ongoing use of this organ in another church and eliminate the cost of removal (an estimated \$15,000–25,000) and transportation.

As discussions regarding the improvement and future of the pipe organ as the primary congregational instrument at Calvary have taken hiatus since 2002, all of these factors—the current state and costs of our own organ, the availability and purchase of the University Hills organ, and the interest of another church community—seem to provide some momentum toward envisioning when a new organ will find its home in Calvary's sanctuary,

revolutionizing our worship space and congregational music.

Following the announcements about the purchase of the new organ and the update at the annual meeting, we have received funds and verbal financial commitments to the project from many of you. We are thankful for you and for these gifts. If you would like to know more about the organ project or

have an interest in giving a specific gift or in memory of a loved one, do not hesitate to contact me or voting members of the music committee.

We look forward to learning, growing and making music together into the future with you, Calvary!

—Kevin Padworski, *Director of Music and Organist*

