

The Allen Moe Company was chosen to store, rebuild, and install the organ into the sanctuary at Valley Church. The VCPC sanctuary had been built in 1965 with provisions for a pipe organ, but lack of funds prohibited the space from being used. But now, with only minimal building changes, the space accommodates this organ. And, for its new setting, the organ case was redesigned once again. It fits in so well, it looks like the sanctuary was designed and built around the organ.

Total cost for the installation of this organ was \$60,000. Most pipe organs are built for one space, and installed in that space. It is quite unusual for a pipe organ to be installed in three different worship spaces.



Installing the organ at Valley

The organ was dedicated in its new home at a concert: October 28, 2007



Organ Details

Wicks Opus 5324; 2 manuals; 3 divisions (Great, Swell, and Pedal); 19 ranks; and 1127 pipes, of which 52 are visible (called façade pipes).

The pipes vary in length from 16 feet to 3/8 inch.

There is a 32' stop on the organ, but the sound for this stop is approximated by using two pipes of different lengths.

Usually, an organ has one keyboard for each division. Our console is normally situated on the side of the sanctuary, by the choir loft. However, for concert performances, the console may easily be moved to the center of the sanctuary.

The **MIDI Sequencer** is like a mini PC which can record and playback keyboard activity, similar in concept to an old player piano. So an organist, while practicing, can record a piece, then play it back and walk around the sanctuary, to hear it the way an audience would hear it. Or the organist can play a duet by recording the organ part of a piano-organ duet and then playing that back while playing the piano part.

Stop List

Coupling stops on the organ allow for using one keyboard to simultaneously control two or three divisions.

Mixture stops are very bright sounding ranks using two or three pipes per note.

GREAT ORGAN	SWELL ORGAN	PEDAL ORGAN
8' Principal	8' Geigen	32' Resultant
8' Gedeckt	8' Rohr Flöte	16' Contra Bass
8' Trompete (Sw)	8' Trompete	16' Fagott
8' Viole (Sw)	8' Viole	16' Lieblich
4' Nacht Horn	8' Voix Celeste	Gedeckt
4' Octave	4' Geigen Principal	8' Fagott
2' Flach Flöte	2-2/3' Nasat	8' Pommer
III Mixture	2' Block Flöte	8' Principal Bass
Chimes	1-3/5' Terz	4' Choral Bass
	Tremolo	4' Fagott
		II Mixture

Valley's Pipe Organ Story



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

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3100 Lilac Drive N • Golden Valley MN 55422

Phone: 763/588-0831 • Fax: 763/588-1873

E-mail: office@valleychurch.net

www.valleychurch.net

The Organ at Oliver Presbyterian Church

Originally named Bloomington Presbyterian Church, Oliver Presbyterian was founded in 1884. By 1887, a larger sanctuary was built to accommodate a growing membership. The first pipe organ was installed in 1904 at a cost of \$3,000, the price of the average new home in the Kenwood neighborhood.



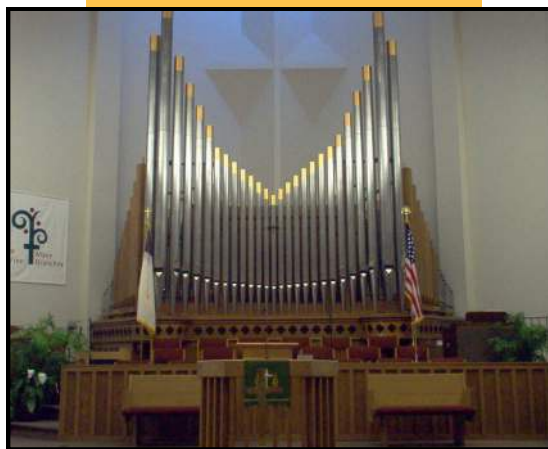
Oliver Presbyterian Church

By 1972, deciding that it was not practical to rebuild the 1904 organ, Oliver members chose to replace the organ with a pipe organ from Wicks Organ Company, built and installed at a cost of \$35,000.

In 1981 a tornado heavily damaged the sanctuary, but very little damage was done to the organ which was safely removed and placed in storage. A new sanctuary was built in the same location in a modern design. The organ case was rebuilt in a complementary style, but still contained the original electrical and mechanical components – and the 1,127 pipes.



In 2002 Oliver did a major update to the organ by replacing the entire electrical system and relays with solid-state electronics and MIDI controls. This was to improve reliability, make maintenance much simpler, and allow more flexibility in organ use.



Organ in the Oliver Presbyterian Church sanctuary

In January 2006, the Oliver membership was combined with the Hope Presbyterian Church in Richfield, Minnesota, and its building became a mission site for Hope Presbyterian Church. The groups who would be using the Oliver building would not use a pipe organ, and a new home for this organ was sought.

Provisionally, as Oliver Church was looking for a new home for their organ, Valley Church was looking for an organ. Within a few months the sessions of both churches, along with the Presbytery, approved the transfer. Valley Church gratefully accepted the wonderful gift of a pipe organ valued at approximately \$359,000.

The Organ Moves to Valley Community Presbyterian Church

A Valley Organ Committee was formed in 2006 and raised the money needed to move, store, and rebuild the organ. It was removed from the Oliver Church in early 2007 with much of the work done by Valley volunteers.



Moving the Oliver organ into storage

