



First (Park) Congregational United Church of Christ

10 East Park Place N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

Four Manuals
81 Ranks

E. M. Skinner Organ Co. 1930

Rebuilt by M.P. Möller Organ Company
1969 and 1988

Lauck Pipe Organ Company
1992

Muller Pipe Organ Company
2005

Great Organ

16 Violone
8 Principal
8 Harmonic Flute
8 Bourdon
4 Octave
4 Waldflöte
2 2/3 Quint
2 Super Octave
1 3/5 Tierce
IV Fourniture
III Cymbale
16 Contre Trompette
8 Trompette
8 Trompette Harmonique
4 Clairon Harmonique
Chimes (Solo)

Swell Organ

16 Lieblich Gedeckt
8 Geigen Principal
8 Gedeckt
8 Viole de Gambe
8 Voix Celeste
8 Flauto Dolce
8 Flute Celeste
4 Principal

Choir Organ

16 Dulciana
8 Diapason
8 Rohrflöte
8 Dulciana
8 Unda Maris
4 Principal
4 Nachthorn
2 Doublette
1 1/3 Larigot
III Mixture
8 Krummhorn
4 Rohr Schalmei
16 Contre Trompette
8 Trompette Harmonique
4 Clarion
8 Trompette en Chamade (Solo)
Harp
Tremolo

Solo Organ

8 Diapason
8 Flauto Mirabilis
8 Gambe
8 Gambe Celeste
8 II Voix Angelique

Pedal Organ

32 Violone (digital)
32 Subbass (digital)
16 Diapason
16 Violone (Great)
16 Subbass
16 Lieblich Gedect (Swell)
16 Dulciana (Choir)
8 Octave
8 Spitzflöte
8 Gedeckt (Swell)
4 Choral Bass
4 Spitzflöte
IV Mixture
32 Contre Bombarde (digital)
32 Contre Basson (digital)
16 Bombarde
16 Contre Trompette (Choir)
16 Basson (Swell)
8 Bombarde
8 Trompette (Choir)
4 Hautbois (Swell)
Chimes

Antiphonal Pedal Organ

16 Bourdon
8 Principal

4 Koppleflöte	8 Tuba Magna	8 Gedeckt
2 2/3 Nazard	8 French Horn	4 Octave
2 Blockflöte	8 Clarinet	
1 3/5 Tierce	8 English Horn	
IV Plein Jeu	8 Trompette en Chamade	
16 Basson	Chimes	
8 Trompette	Tremolo	
8 Hautbois		
8 Vox Humana	<u>Antiphonal Organ</u>	
4 Clarion		
Tremolo	8 Principal	
	8 Flute	
	4 Octave	
	2 Super Octave	
	III-IV Mixture	

Muller Pipe Organ Company has built a new organ for First (Park) Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The new instrument will continue the long-standing tradition of excellence in pipe organs commissioned by the church, which has enjoyed instruments by some of America's most distinguished pipe organ builders

The first pipe organ, builder unknown, was purchased in 1855. It was replaced by a Johnson organ (driven by water) in 1885. In 1930, the E.M. Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts, installed Opus 784, which consisted of four manuals and 53 ranks of pipes. A typical instrument of the era, it contained many individual solo stops and paid less attention to the development of choruses.

In 1969, the M.P. Möller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, significantly renovated the organ (R-806). The instrument was redesigned tonally, with much of the Skinner pipework replaced. The instrument grew to 79 ranks, the Solo organ was eliminated, and a Positiv organ was added. A new console was constructed, but much of the Skinner mechanism remained intact.

In August of 1988, a fire seriously damaged the instrument, destroying the console. Other components were damaged by smoke. The organ was again redesigned and rebuilt by the M.P. Möller Company, this time increasing the organ to 103 ranks, and now designated as Opus 11810. New Antiphonal and Solo divisions were installed, along with significant increases to other divisions. A new console with modern solid-state components was installed. Mechanically, much of the 1930 Skinner mechanism remained, and the chambers were overly crowded and difficult to access due to the additions and changes.

In recent years, the instrument began experiencing problems with the console and solid-state controls. Even more problematic was the difficulty of accessing components for maintenance and repairs

Muller Pipe Organ was engaged to design & construct a new instrument to enhance the music ministry of Park Church, be a consistently inspiring element of worship, and make use of the existing resources to the greatest extent possible. The new instrument is 81 ranks, playable across 4 manuals and pedal. Mechanically, the instrument is entirely new, except the Solo and Antiphonal Organs, which remain virtually unchanged since they were newly installed in the 1988 renovation. Select pipework from the existing instrument has been voiced and repaired to complement new pipework. A new Aeolian-Skinner replica console was constructed and finished to match the church furnishings. Removal of the former organ took place in January 2005, with installation of the new organ in the summer

of 2005, with completion in the fall of 2005.

Most of the Great Organ is exposed on the front wall of the chancel. This division features a broadly voiced principal chorus, a complement of flutes, and a powerful 8' Trompette. A grand, principal-based cornet is available by drawing the 1-3/5' Tierce with the rest of the principal chorus.

The Swell Organ features an independent principal chorus, a full complement of flutes, and a battery of chorus reeds. A secondary cornet decomposéé plays against the Baroque reeds of the Choir organ, and in contrast to the larger Great cornet. The Skinner Flauto Dolce and Flute Celeste have returned to their original role, as has the Skinner Vox Humana. The new Trompette and Clairon, constructed with domed French shallots, add fire to the entire instrument, and with the Möller Basson/Hautbois give a French flair to this division.

A dual use division, the Choir Organ features both a principal chorus that is more English in character, and Baroque style reeds that are more Germanic in character than the other divisions. The Skinner Dulciana and Unda Maris are restored to their original position, as are the robust Möller Trompette Harmonique and Clairon. The 1-1/3' Larigot and III Mixture enable the instrument to render Baroque music extremely effectively, allowing the Choir to assume the role of the former Positiv Organ.

Enjoying a unique setting, the Solo Organ sits high above the nave in the church attic. The colorful solo sounds interplay with their accompaniment coming from the chancel organ, literally surrounding the listener with sound. This division, installed in 1988, remains unchanged except for the new 8' Flauto Mirabilis that has been installed to eliminate undesirable speech problems with the former rank of the same name.

Also retained from the previous instrument, the Antiphonal Organ sits on the rear wall of the nave. This division possesses its own principal chorus, and a small 8' Flute that can serve in a solo capacity. It is home to the triumphant 8' Trompette en Chamade, which is the definitive solo voice of the instrument. This division's primary role is to support hymn singing for those in the back of the sanctuary.

A large scaled 16' Diapason is the foundation for the grand Pedal Organ. The chorus is completed by a 4' Choral Bass and IV Mixture, which provide a firm but clear bass line for the instrument. It also contains independent flutes at 16' and 8', as well as a large 16' Bombarde. Judicious borrowing makes the division extremely flexible, allowing for solo voices at 4', and five 16' stops. Due to space restrictions, this division is complemented by digital stops, which allows for the inclusion of the 32' pitches required for an instrument of this size.

The organ is tonally designed in the American Classic style, as developed by G. Donald Harrison of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company. The organ has broad and clear principal choruses that are not heavily dominated by large-scale reeds, and each division plays a clear role in the overall sound of the instrument. The instrument is well suited to play all types of organ literature, choral accompaniment, and church hymnody.