



## Organ Update ~Mary Alice Gordon

June 10, 2020

After a pandemic-related break, the Organ Steering Committee met by Zoom on June 10, just as a severe storm struck the area, bringing electrical outages and causing us to lost contact with two members before the meeting officially ended

We began by refocusing ourselves and reviewing where we were at the moment: The pandemic has forced major changes in our plans as to how we can best engage the congregation in the decision they must ultimately make. Each committee member was asked to share his/her feelings/reasons as to what each felt was the best path forward. It was obvious that important considerations were finances (the lower cost of a digital organ) and the recognition of the tradition of a pipe organ in our worship at Gay Street. Two important points emerged: (1) that our obligation is to provide the best options for the congregation to consider and (2) a major factor in any decision must be if/how we can afford it.

We discussed the information we need to gather or clarify and then share with the congregation:

**For the pipe organ** currently in storage: a review of the strong points of this instrument as an option for Gay Street; a clear quote on the costs of structural changes needed to accommodate this organ; details on the timing of installation, etc.

**For a digital organ:** Clarify what this means in terms of quality and function (this is not an “electric” organ like the one in the chapel); possible visits to hear a digital organ in a space similar to Gay Street, information on ongoing costs (maintenance, up-dating, etc.)

**For either organ:** A clear church financial report of where we stand now. How will the organ be financed: loan, pledges from the congregation, investments, a combination of all?

We then discussed how best to present this information, including: a major mailing that would provide details on both digital and pipe organ solutions and funding suggestions/alternatives; ongoing information in Tower Topics and/or the daily devotionals, Facebook, our website; and information shared in worship.

We also realize the need to provide avenues for congregational members to ask questions and receive answers. Possibilities: Facebook, Zoom Q&A, The drop slot at the church, meeting(s) if safe procedures can be developed. This is a difficult time for all of us. Those of us on the Organ Steering Committee ask for your continued prayers, support and understanding as we work to provide the information that will help all of us together arrive at a decision that is in the best possible interests of the church.