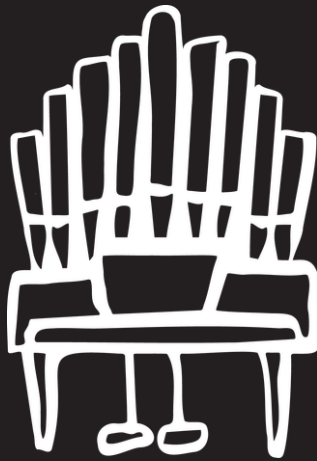


# The *Capital* Campaign

Preserve & Enhance  
our Spiritual Home



A New Organ for Epiphany

EPIPHANY†  
— Seattle —



Dear Epiphany,

Every now and then we are called to reflect on the sacred space where we gather: to worship God, to study the life of Jesus, and to continue forward on our spiritual journey. Sometimes this means tending to what needs repair. And sometimes we are called to something more; something particular and holy, unique to our place and to the way we worship together. What we are called to contribute to Epiphany now is a new organ. This document is written to help you understand why. And so, I invite you to read it carefully, with a heart open to who we are continuing to become as a dynamic Christian community in the Pacific Northwest.

Here is what I know: whether you're into organ music or not; whether you love choral worship or simply tolerate it; whether you believe we need a new organ or feel the one we have is "good enough"—when the new organ is woven into the very walls of this sacred sanctuary, its impact will touch every single person who worships here. It will deepen the way our souls dance together in communion with God and with creation. The organ is the final piece of the puzzle that completes Epiphany's primary sanctuary, and it will bless every person who gathers here in ways that move, unite, and transform them—whether they know it consciously or simply feel it in their bones.

This organ is being designed and built to help us hold the center, where we stand together. And together, we will bring it to life through the resources God has entrusted to each of us. When it arrives, it will stand as a tangible, outward, and visible expression of our shared commitment to beauty, faith, and the glory of God alive at Epiphany—as it is now, so too will it be for generations to come.

This is our work right now, and I am grateful to be doing it with you. Thank you.

Peace upon your soul.

Doyt+

# A New Organ for Epiphany

In February 2025, the Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr. and Epiphany's Music Director Zach Hemenway formed an organ committee to assess the existing organ in the church and make a recommendation as to whether the parish should repair or replace it.

The committee included knowledgeable musicians, as well as a number of people who have experience assessing, buying, and installing organs. The committee was chaired by Laura Sargent and included John Nesholm, Laura Bradstreet, Mike Evans, Sherman Griffin, Wyatt Smith, and Zach Hemenway.

## **At issue: The current organ in the church was not meeting Epiphany's musical needs**

For nearly 30 years, the current church organ, a Baroque-style tracker organ built by the Noack Organ Company ("the Noack"), has helped Epiphany Parish sing, pray, and celebrate. It was creatively crafted to suit the parish's size and musical life when it was installed. But Epiphany has changed—its choir and congregation have grown, and the acoustics in the church were reengineered in 2015. While choirs and congregations will change over time, chiefly the Noack was designed for a space that no longer exists.

## **What are some of the specific issues?**

**1. The "breath" of the organ is too weak:** An organ lives on wind. Our current instrument simply can't breathe deeply enough. When the organist asks it to play full and rich sounds, the air supply falters. Some pipes don't speak clearly; others sag out of tune. Imagine trying to sing a hymn while short of breath - precise, clear tone becomes impossible.

Fixing this would mean rebuilding the entire wind system, requiring larger air channels, stronger blower, and new mechanisms for one of the main sections of pipes. That repair would necessitate taking significant portions of the organ apart, and that would upset the balance of other pipes that currently sound acceptable.

**2. The keys are heavy and cause player fatigue:** Because of how the organ is laid out inside its chamber, the keys are linked to the pipes through an unusually long and complicated set of wooden levers. When two or three keyboards are played together, as church music often requires, the action becomes dauntingly heavy. For organists trained to play smooth, legato lines with quick manual changes, it is like pressing through mud. This limits what music can be offered and makes long services physically taxing to the organist. Only a complete rebuild can solve this.

**3. The console doesn't fit all organists:** The keyboard desk—the console—was built to a non-standard design. Further, the swell pedal, which is operated by the right foot, sits several inches too far to the right, forcing awkward posture. The keyboards are higher and farther forward than the international standard. Together with the heavy touch, this creates fatigue and even risk of injury for the organist. Minor fixes can't correct these dimensional issues.

**4. The sound is unbalanced and too loud:** On paper, the stop list looks versatile, but in the room it isn't. The softer "Swell" section is underpowered compared to the "Great," making it hard to shape dynamics for choir anthems or hymn accompaniment. Other quirks, like a partial cornet stop and a slow-speaking bass, limit musical color and precision. And the tuning temperament locks the player into a narrow range of keys, unsuitable for full Anglican repertoire.

## Why repair isn't the answer

Each attempted fix triggers another potential issue. Strengthen the wind, and the key action grows heavier. Lighten the action, and the wind system fails further. Revoice the pipes, and tuning stability collapses. Since organs are complex, bespoke, interdependent machines, any major repair has a domino effect, making budgeting uncertain and quality outcome far from guaranteed.

**In plain terms:** The Noack's design is ingenious and intelligent for the challenging envelope that we made available and the choice to have a tracker-style organ. However, its lungs, muscles, and voice are all now mismatched for Epiphany's primary worship space. Trying to rebuild it would cost nearly as much as replacing it, without guaranteeing success. A new organ, designed for Epiphany's present acoustics and musical mission, will honor the artistry of our Anglican tradition while giving the next generations an instrument worthy of their song.

## Organ Committee's Conclusion

After careful study, consultation, and prayerful discernment, the Organ Committee unanimously recommended to the Vestry that Epiphany replace the Noack with a new organ designed specifically for our building, its acoustic, our congregation, and our music program.

Core to its consideration was repair cost, as well as Epiphany now having a world-class music program housed in a beautifully resonant worship space.





The final step is an instrument worthy of both—an organ that will:

- Support the congregation’s singing with strength and clarity to create a deeper sense of worshiping unity.
- Provide the tonal color and flexibility required for our diverse choral repertoire.
- Offer a right-sized, reliable console for the musicians who lead worship.
- Have the capacity to play softly and sensitively when needed, something the current instrument simply cannot do, which will allow for greater musical and liturgical nuance.
- Ensure that, even if Epiphany’s choir were to change in size or capacity, the church will always be able to attract and retain a serious, capable, and passionate organist around whom the music program could be rebuilt and reenergized, if need be.



*Preliminary renderings of the new organ*



# The Organ Selection Process

The research was thorough and hands-on. The committee members sent Zach, and our former Associate Music Director, Wyatt Smith, to do research in five cities. They played thirty different instruments made by numerous, leading organ building firms. As part of the process, they spoke with musicians and clergy at those churches, as well as parishioners, to learn how each organ served those congregations.

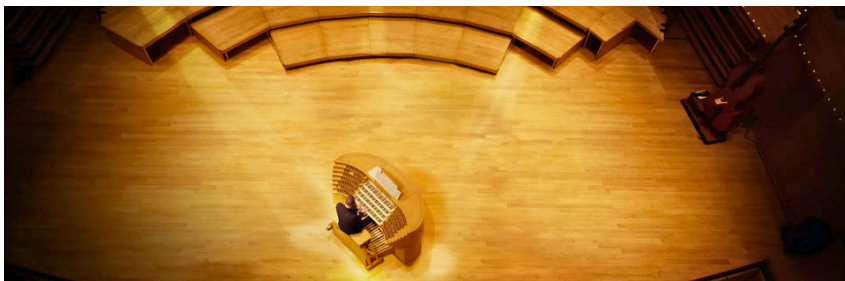
Five builders were invited to visit Epiphany to evaluate the space and music program, and then bid on the project. Two finalists returned for second visits with design sketches and tonal concepts.



## **Chosen builder: Casavant Frères of Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec**

After months of visits, reports, and consultation, the committee unanimously chose Casavant Frères (“Casavant”) to build Epiphany’s new organ. This decision was presented to the Vestry on October 14, 2025. The recommendation was accepted unanimously, and a contract was executed.

By this time, the organ subcommittee had been incorporated into a broader Capital Campaign Committee focused on the preservation and renovation of the Epiphany campus. This campaign is intended to complete projects that had not been funded in the 2015 capital campaign, while also addressing ongoing campus needs. Within this effort, the organ became a principal focus.

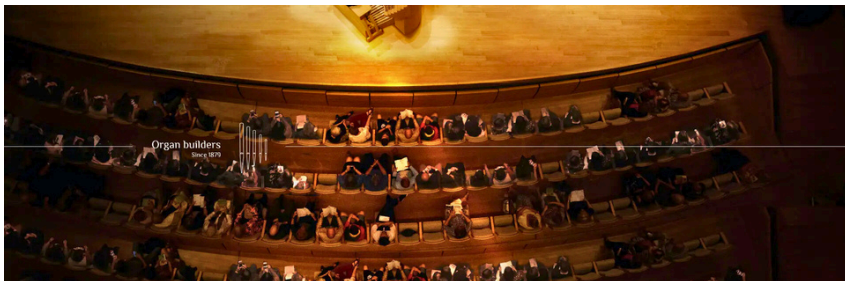


## Casavant Frères

Casavant is one of the oldest and largest organ builders in North America, founded in 1879 and known worldwide for instruments that combine craftsmanship, artistry, and architectural harmony. Their recent work includes St. Patrick's Cathedral (New York City), St. Thomas Aquinas (Dallas), the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (Kansas City), and the Kennedy Center (Washington DC).

Casavant organs impressed our researchers with the warmth and clarity of their sound, ideally suited to choral accompaniment; for the beauty of their design, which enhances each worship space; for their professionalism paired with their enthusiasm for Epiphany's vision; and finally, for their in-house craftsmanship, ensuring continuity from design through installation.

The Casavant team's deep experience with rooms of all sizes and acoustics gives confidence that the organ made for Epiphany will be perfectly scaled to the size and sound of the sanctuary.



# About the New Casavant Organ

## Key features:

- Electric key action, rather than tracker action, with a detached console: smooth, responsive, and reliable.
- New pipe facades on both sides of the chancel that complement Epiphany's original architectural design, restoring the church's original visual and auditory balance.
- A relocated console on the opposite side of the chancel, allowing the organist to hear the full instrument more accurately; to better conduct the choir from the console; and to better hear and lead congregational singing.
- Designed for Episcopal liturgy, where accompanying congregational and choral singing is the central priority.
- The new instrument will be comprised of 70 stops across three keyboards and pedal, with approximately 2500 pipes. The design allows for larger pipework, enabling a supportive bass sound that you will be able to feel.

## For the generations

- This Casavant organ will be built to last because it is made from durable, repairable materials: wood, metal, leather, and mechanical parts that can be maintained and renewed across generations. Its pipes are carefully scaled to fit the room's acoustics, so the sound is balanced, warm, and clear from the very first note, not forced or amplified. With proper care, this organ can continue to serve and inspire our parish for centuries.
- This is an organ built on timeless musical principles, designed to serve many styles of sacred music with honesty and balance. Its sound is shaped by the room and by centuries of organ-building knowledge. Because it is adaptable, repairable, and musically grounded, it will remain effective and meaningful for the long haul.

# What the New Organ Offers

The new organ will establish a musical floor while removing a musical ceiling for Epiphany.

**The floor:** No matter how the choir may change over time, Epiphany will always be anchored by a first-rate instrument, one that sounds beautiful in our sanctuary, attracts gifted organists of all shapes and sizes, and strengthens the singing unity of the congregation. It will support the full breadth of our liturgical life, whether accompanying congregational singing alone, a single soloist, a small ensemble, or a chancel alive with sixty voices.

**Removing the ceiling:** The organ will make possible the most sophisticated choral repertoire in the Anglican tradition. It will produce a wide dynamic range, from powerful fullness to gentle, expressive softness that our current organ cannot achieve; fill the sanctuary with sound from both sides, creating a sense of depth and presence; and offer subtle color and flexibility for choir, soloists, and congregation alike.

This organ will inspire future generations. Even if the choir changes, this world-class instrument will always allow Epiphany to attract and retain a serious, capable, and passionate organist around whom the music program can grow and flourish.



## Construction and installation timeline

The design phase has begun and will involve detailed engineering, pipe scaling, and chamber layout drawings. Installation is scheduled for summer 2028, with final tonal finishing continuing into the fall.

Epiphany's responsibilities will include: the removal of the existing organ (ideally through a buyer and its third party organ mover); preparing the site for installation, modifying the vesting room for the new "Great" division; repairing and insulating the existing organ chamber; repainting and readying floors, walls, and ceilings; building secure housings for the organ's blowers; electrical work to connect power, lighting, and control systems; temporary scaffolding and lifting equipment for installation; and managing any required permits, taxes, or local fees.

Casavant will handle every aspect of design, construction, shipping, installation, and final voicing, ensuring that the finished organ fits our sanctuary perfectly in sight, sound, and spirit.

## Looking ahead

This new organ is more than a musical instrument; it is a liturgical legacy. It will deepen congregational connection and strengthen our common bounds. Beyond providing the sound that leads our singing, the organ carries a mysterious and formative relationship to the life of a congregation. It is not only what we hear, but what we feel. At a deep, imperceptible level, an organ perfectly voiced for a particular congregation in a particular space has the capacity to create unity in ways that lie just beyond conscious comprehension.

The organ is uniquely designed to work at the level of the soul, connecting soul to soul, not only through melody, breath, and shared words, but through the deep rumble that moves through the room, uniting us physically to one another, to the space and out into the cosmos in a way that nourishes us spiritually. There is no question that when the new Casavant is installed at Epiphany, we will hear and feel a difference. What we will also know is a deeper unity within an already remarkably united congregation.



# About Giving

Contributions to this capital campaign can be given all at once or spread out over three years. Every gift matters, and our goal is 100% participation, it's the collective commitment of our community that will make this campaign successful. You will be asked to fill out a commitment card or to make a commitment online.

These are ways to give: Write a check, contribute stocks or mutual funds, or pay through our online portal. You may pay over one, two, or three years. You may pay all at once, monthly, quarterly, or annually.

As a general rule, Epiphany does not name donors for specific gifts, nor are contributions typically designated for individual projects within the campaign. However, all donors will be recognized collectively on an honor roll for their support of the 2026 Capital Campaign. To make a commitment, scan the QR code below:



[epiphanyseattle.org/campaign2026](https://epiphanyseattle.org/campaign2026)



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