



The mission of the *American Guild of Organists* is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we: 1) Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; 2) Inspire,

educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; 3) Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; 4) Nurture future generations of organists; 5) Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and 6) Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

For more information about the Evansville Chapter of the AGO, please see our website: evansvilleago.org.

Inquiries and donations for the Giesecke Organ project may be directed to:

Giesecke Organ Project
c/o Robert Nicholls
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Evansville IN 47713-1107
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The Edmund Giesecke Organ



The Evansville

Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is delighted to have been able to acquire an exquisite, small instrument made in 1910 by Evansville's own organ builder, Edmund Giesecke (1845-1928). First made for a Catholic Church in Wisconsin, the one-manual and pedal organ was moved to a Lutheran church in Maumee, Ohio, in the 1950's.



The church closed in recent years and the new owners contacted Evansville AGO in May 2016 to let us know that they were going to renovate the building and that the organ did not have a place in their plans. Evansville AGO engaged the Curator of Organs at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, David Kazimir, to inspect the instrument and make a recommendation. He described the instrument as “*deserving the care and*

attention of a proper restoration in all aspects to honor the fine craftsmanship and artistry it represents. It is remarkable how well it plays now with the weakened wind system.



It would be sublime with a quiet blower and restored bellows.”

After intense discussion, Evansville AGO quickly decided to purchase the instrument and have Mr. Kazimir carefully dismantle, remove, and deliver the organ to Evansville with the help of Patrick Fischer, Curator of Organs at Indiana University.

This organ is one of five Giesecke instruments known to exist. Before being dismantled, it was still playable, though in a degraded state. Now partly on display and in storage at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, it needs a considerable amount of restoration work to restore it to its former glory. We hope to preserve this important part of the rich musical history of the Tri-state area and make it possible for the instrument to once again lend its musical voice in worship and concert settings.



Evansville AGO has chosen Taylor and Boody, of Staunton, Virginia, an internationally renowned builder and restorer of pipe organs, to work on this remarkable instrument.

The pieces of the organ will be insured, dismantled, and taken to Virginia to be put back in proper working order. The leather of the bellows, which is original to 1910, will be replaced and the hand pump of the wind system restored. A new, inaudible, electric blower will be provided, enabling the cleaned,



repaired, and restored pipes to sound clearly. The unfortunate blinding treatment from the 1950's will be reversed to the original oak stain and finish. The playing action will be cleaned and regulated, pedals repaired, missing stop faces replaced, the organ tuned, and the keyboard will be recovered with a similar material to original. The organ will be returned to Evansville and rebuilt in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church by Taylor and Boody staff with help from the Evansville AGO chapter. After all this work, the organ will be returned to the Evansville community, fully restored and ready to bring music to life for another 100 years.

