

W.W. KIMBALL CO.
Chicago, IL.
Opus c. 1905

Geo. W. Graham
Spokane, WA.
19__

"Electrification"

GREAT

16 Double Open Diapason 61
8 Open Diapason 61
8 Doppel Flute 61
8 Gamba 61
8 Dulciana 61
4 Principal 61
2 Fifteenth 61
8 Orch. Trumpet 61

Great Unison Off
Great to Great 4'

Choir (Enclosed)

8 Open Diapason 61
8 Melodia 61
8 Dulciana 61
4 Flute d'Amour 61
2 Piccolo 61
8 Clarinet 61
Tremolo
Chimes (Maas; tf-c3) (32)

Choir Unison Off
Choir to Choir 4'

COUPLERS

Swell to Great 8,4
Great to Pedal 8,4
Choir to Pedal 8,4

Swell to Great 16,8,4
Choir to Great 8,4
Swell to Choir 8,4

TOE STUDS

Gr. - Ped. Rev. (rev)
Sforz. Rev. (rev)

SWELL (Expressive)

16 Bourdon 61
8 Violin Diapason 61
8 Stopped Diapason 61
8 Salicional 61
8 Vox Celeste (tc) 49
8 Aeoline 61
4 Flute Traverso 61
8 Cornopean 61
8 Oboe 61
8 Vox Humana 61
blank
Tremolo

Swell to Swell 16'
Swell Unison Off
Swell to Swell 4'

PEDAL

16 Open Diapason [wood] 30
16 Violone 30
16 Bourdon 30
8 Flute 30

FINGER PISTONS

General 1 - 4
Swell 1 - 4
Sw. to Ped. (rev)
Great 1 - 4
Gt. to Ped. (rev)
Choir 1 - 4
Ch. to Ped. (rev)
Sforz. (rev)
G.C.

PEDAL MOVEMENTS

Swell Expression (bal.)
Choir Expression (bal.)
Crescendo (bal.)

ACTION: E-P primary

VOICES: 28

STOPS: 29
(inc. chimes)

RANKS: 28

PIPES: 1,572

NOTES

Central United Methodist Church has its beginnings in First Methodist Episcopal Church who built their first building on the SW corner of Sprague and Washington in 1881. Circa 1887, a new brick church was built at the same site. In 18__, the present site at the NE corner of Third and Howard was purchased, and a temporary tabernacle was erected on the site at which time the brick church on Sprague and Washington was sold for \$35,000.00.

In 1894, the quarterly conference voted 18 to 6 to build a new edifice at Third and Howard to replace the tabernacle. This was known as the "Little White Church". It housed a II-manual, 38-register Hook & Hastings tracker action instrument built in 1902 as that firm's opus 1944. Both church and organ were destroyed by fire at 2:00 a.m. on April 16, 1905. In the interim after the fire, Sunday school was held at Central Christian Church. Worship was conducted at the Spokane Theatre located at First and Post.

99 people were so upset by the decision to build the new church that they left First Methodist Episcopal in 1895 to form Vincent Methodist Episcopal. They first met at Simons Hall on the corner of Sprague and Howard. Next they erected a small church on the SW corner of First and Wall. Finally, they erected a brick church at Main and Lincoln. This was the first Spokane church to have a pipe organ. It was a large 2-manual instrument installed in 1901.

A quarterly conference was called after the April 16 fire, and a unanimous vote was reached to build a new church on the same location - to cost +/- \$50,000.00. This is the present edifice. The cornerstone was laid in 1905. By the fall of 1906, the basement was being used for some activities and worship. On May 26, 1907, the new sanctuary was used for the first time.

The origins of the Kimball organ have been a bit obscure and uncertain until now. According to a pipe organ compilation authored in the 1960's by Balcom and Vaughan tonal director Eugene M. Nye, the Kimball now at Central United Methodist was originally built for Vincent M.E. Church. However, Vincent did not merge with First M.E. to form Central Methodist until 1918, 23 years after the split. Photographs in Central United Methodist's archives show the present organ in 1910, so it must have originally been built for the 1906 building. Further research has also revealed that the Vincent M.E. Church Kimball was relocated to the Methodist Church in Ellensburg, WA.

The organ as originally built had an detached, drawknob console below the elevated organ and on the main floor in front of the podium. The action was tubular-pneumatic to vented chests. In the 1950's, the primaries were electrified and a new Klann tilting tablet console was provided to replace the original. This was done by George A. Graham of Spokane.

There are presently 37 pipes in the façade of which 12 are from the Great 8' Open Diapason. The impost is drilled for two more corner pipes, but the slope of the arch evidently did not permit their installation.

The Choir 4' Flute d'Amour had its stoppers releathered in the 1990's by Meadway & Stettner of Monroe, Washington.

Sources: Church history and photos; JRS; extant, electrified (but tonally unaltered) organ.

Central United Methodist
W. 518 Third Ave.
Spokane, WA. 99204
(509) 838-1431

Documented: December 3, 1992
Verified & updated: June 27, 1997