

Grace United Methodist Church Hastings, Nebraska

The Grace United Methodist Church facility consists of a spacious church for worship services, connected to a building housing its offices, daycare, Sunday school and nursery, with later additions including a kitchen, gym and music room. The 700-member congregation carries out the work of the United Methodist Church through choir groups, ministries and a variety of church organizations and activities.



CHALLENGE

- Inefficient and aging chiller/boiler system required frequent, costly service calls.
- HVAC system could not keep up with increasing load demands, resulting in inconsistent building temperatures.
- Due to the churches multiple uses and varied schedules, energy was wasted heating or cooling unoccupied spaces.
- No central control system meant staff had no way to schedule usage in zones.
- The Church was experiencing drastic increases in their utility bills.



SOLUTION

- Trane installed two Trane Advantage VRF™ systems, which included twenty-nine indoor and four outdoor units.
- The high performance variable speed compressors precisely match their output to demand levels, maximizing comfort and minimizing energy consumption.
- Individual thermostats on each unit maintain precise and consistent temperature control.
- The system can be controlled remotely over the internet, allowing schedules of operation to be customized based on occupancy.



RESULTS

- Consistent temperatures, increased reliability and quiet operation of the new VRF Systems have improved comfort for the church staff, congregation and visitors.
- Ability to program schedules of operation for each unit and shut off areas not in use has reduced energy costs.
- “With the Advantage VRF systems, we’re able to provide comfort in spaces our old equipment couldn’t reach...Plus, the units are a lot quieter, which is nice for our church activities.”
- Denise Hauff, Office Manager

