

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
January 26, 2016, Meeting**

10. **CAR No. 16-016** (Cedar St. Baptist)

**2301 Cedar Street
Union Hill Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Restore stained glass windows in
church sanctuary**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to restore and alter the stained glass windows of the Cedar Baptist Church of God sanctuary as part of the rehabilitation of the 1893 Gothic church structure in the Union Hill Old and Historic District. The majority of the work to the exterior of the structure will consist of repair as the exterior has deteriorated due to age, weathering and vandalism. The applicant is proposing to remove stained glass on the projecting bay on the 24th Street elevation. The applicant is proposing to remove the bottom sash of all four windows and replace the stained glass with tinted glass to match the color variation of the stained glass in the upper sashes. The applicant has stated that the church pastor would like to remove this stained glass rather than restore it in place as the area behind the windows will be the pastor's office, and he would like to engage the community by being able to see out the windows. The applicant is proposing to reuse the removed stained glass throughout the sanctuary in areas in which the historic stained glass has been removed or damaged over time.

Staff recommends approval of the project with conditions. *The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that original windows including decorative elements should be retained and that damaged elements should be repaired instead of replaced (pg. 55, #5, #7). The applicant is proposing to retain the majority of the stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary and repair portions including both the wooden and glass elements as needed. Though the applicant is proposing to remove the historic stained glass from the bay on the 24th Street elevation, this glass will be used to restore elements of the large prominent stained glass window on the Cedar Street elevation and missing elements on the parking lot facing elevation. Staff recommends approval of this relocation of the stained glass with the condition that the applicant provide a plan for staff to review and administratively approve of the exact locations as to where the stained glass will be relocated prior to the removal of the window sashes. Additionally, the Guidelines for window rehabilitation note that new glass should not be tinted or receive reflective coatings (pg. 65, #10). For this reason, staff recommends that the proposed new glass should be clear not tinted as proposed.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the conditions noted above, is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 30-930.7(b)

of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.