

SECOND STAGE | AMHERST
OFFER TO AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARCH 18, 2014

The Amherst County citizens working to save the former Amherst Baptist Church and repurpose it as a center for culture and community remain committed to the goal and the conviction that it is a positive investment for the community. We recognize that the Department of Social Services is severely in need of expanded space in order to fill the needs of many in our community, and we respect the Board of Supervisors decision to have all the county's property evaluated to determine the best use of County real estate assets.

Understanding that the Amherst Baptist Church property must be evaluated equally alongside other county properties, we are willing to accept the offer from the Board of Supervisors to allow Second Stage use of the facility for another year at the same terms as the last while the evaluation process proceeds. We would expect that the building be presented to us in the condition in which we left it, that the flat roofs be patched and the cosmetic damage be repaired.

Once the property evaluation is completed, and depending on its results, Second Stage hopes that the county will once again consider our request of a multi-year partnership with the county to develop the property, fill all the office/studio spaces, develop a sound business plan, and a long-term strategic plan that includes a plan for renovations.

Further, we suggest that these ideas be considered:

- a) Should it be determined that the Amherst Baptist Church property is not of use to the county, we request that Second Stage be given right of first refusal to purchase the property at a predetermined price.
- b) Should it be determined that the property is of use, but not the building, we request that Second Stage be given right of first refusal to purchase the building at a predetermined price with a long-term lease of the property.

We remain eager to be active partners with the county in this endeavor to save a historic structure and to see it once again provide our citizens with positive educational and cultural activities that build a sense of pride in themselves and in Amherst County.