

POLICY CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Episcopal Church has never endorsed prohibiting the use of beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use and serving of wine in his first miracle at Cana and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. This Church also supports and has a responsibility to those people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages for whatever reason. The following **guidelines** apply:

1. All applicable federal, state and local laws should be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors. Every effort should be made to check age and identification as appropriate at all functions.
2. Alcoholic beverages and all food prepared with alcohol must be clearly labeled as such. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
3. Whenever alcohol is served, non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility.
4. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served. Whenever alcohol is served, the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. No hard liquor is to be served.
5. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event [*i.e. a wine tasting*]
6. Ministries inside and outside of the congregation will make certain that alcohol consumption is not the focus of the ministry and that drinking alcohol is not an exclusively normative activity.

7. Food must be served when alcohol is present and the serving of alcoholic beverages should conclude well before guests are scheduled to leave. A clearly set timeline is strongly encouraged to establish how long alcohol will be served.
8. The group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the Rector or Vestry or their designee. Such groups or organizations must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired. The Wardens and Vestry may request proof of insurance for use by outside party.
9. Recognizing the effect of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, it is advisable to consider the nature of the function at which alcoholic beverages are proposed to be served.
10. The use of other or illegal mood altering substances is forbidden at any function.
11. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse.