

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE POLICY

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. If an adult member elects to use alcohol, however, moderate usage is expected. Church members should be educated regarding those conditions that might consequently compromise the health and safety of oneself and others. The Church also supports and has a responsibility to those people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages for whatever reason. Many churches do not serve alcoholic beverages at social functions, but, for those which do, the following guidelines are given:

- All applicable federal, state and local laws must be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
- Alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol must be clearly labeled as such.
- Whenever alcohol is served, food and non-alcoholic alternatives must also be offered with accessibility.
- The service of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event.
- The church group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission to do so from the Facilities Use Subcommittee.
- Groups or organizations agree to assume full responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must agree to provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired as a result of consumption of alcohol.

In addition to the above guidelines, the following requirements shall apply to all those who use church facilities for their private use. The following requirements shall be made a part of any rental agreement:

- Applicants shall obtain and provide proof of all applicable licenses and permits that may be required as well as proof of appropriate insurance naming the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas and St. Mark's Episcopal Church as additional insured parties.
- At least one million dollars (\$1,000, 000) in coverage is required. The policy must also limit the liability associated with alcohol consumption to the insured parties.
- Applicants will agree to indemnify and hold St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas harmless from and against all damage claims, including damages arising from the use or service of alcohol at the event.
- Controlled substances, as defined by applicable federal, state or local laws, are strictly forbidden at any church function.