

Policy for the Use of Alcoholic Beverages in the Diocese of Arkansas

Approved by Executive Council, September 22, 2015

The church strives always to provide a safe, welcoming and nourishing environment for all people, especially remaining sensitive to those who may be in recovery. Therefore, the following policies shall remain in full force and effect at all diocesan and Camp Mitchell events unless otherwise amended by the Executive Council of the Diocese of Arkansas. Furthermore, every congregation is encouraged to develop a policy with regard to the use of alcohol that is consistent with the language of this policy.

1. Any entity will insure that it is in compliance with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.
2. Under any circumstances through which the church might lease and/or invite the use of its premises to a third party who will be serving alcohol, the following shall apply: a written agreement whereby the third party understands that it must follow the policy contained herein, as well as, any additional requirements set forth by the lessor or inviting entity. This written agreement should contain language that holds the church harmless of, and indemnifies it in any instance, whereby the Lessee/Invitee shall be responsible for any acts of negligence or misconduct.
3. At any time that alcohol is to be served at a church or church sponsored event, an adult at least 21 years old will be assigned the responsibility of overseeing the distribution of said alcohol. The person(s) in charge shall likewise be responsible for insuring that minors do not have access to alcohol, and, if necessary, should see that alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available from separate serving areas in order to prevent underage drinking.
4. At any event at which alcohol is served, an appealing non-alcoholic alternative will always be offered with equal prominence, attractiveness, and accessibility.
5. All drinks and food will be clearly labeled if they contain alcohol.
6. Alcohol will not be served or consumed under the following circumstances:
 - A. During any event in which the primary focus of the activity involves minors;
 - B. By any adult who is acting as a leader, counselor, or who in any capacity shall have supervisory responsibility over any minors;
 - C. Before or during business sessions (for example, vestry or committee meetings); or,
 - D. When food is not served at the same event.

