

In the Diocese of Alabama we are concerned about the illness of alcoholism which is epidemic in our society. Therefore, we recommend the following alcohol policy approved by the 1985 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, USA be the guideline to alcohol use in the parish and diocese.

The following statement was approved by the 1985 General Convention

The Episcopal Church has never endorsed the prohibition of using beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use of wine in his first miracle at Cana and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. When an adult member elects to use alcohol, moderate usage is expected. Church members are expected to be educated regarding those conditions that might compromise the health and safety of oneself or others. Church also supports 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 that do, the following guidelines are given:

All applicable federal, state and local laws should 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, non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility.

The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event.

The group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the parish for such a plan. The group or organization must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be thus impaired.

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.

The usage of chemicals other than alcohol is clearly controlled under federal, state and local laws. Such usage should be forbidden at any function.