

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH POLICY ON SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

(The following represents the formal policy by the Episcopal Church on the use of alcohol at church functions.)

*The Episcopal Church has never endorsed the prohibition of using beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use and serving 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 for 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 events, 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 service 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 this plan. 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 thus be impaired.
- Recognizing the effect of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, it would be advisable to consider the nature of the event at which alcoholic beverages are proposed to be served.
- Chemical usage other than alcohol is clearly controlled under federal laws and, as such, is forbidden at any church event.