

Trinity Episcopal Church Policy on Alcohol Use at Church Functions

Alcohol should not be served prior to worship or business meetings; or as a part of business meetings, nor at social events intended or advertised for families or where including children is one of the goals of the event. If the organizer of the event has any questions about how this policy applies, they should ask the Rector.

Food must be available at all functions where alcohol is served.

Equally attractive, non-alcoholic alternatives must be offered as conspicuously as alcoholic beverages. Persons who wish to abstain from alcohol must be able to do so comfortably. It is critical that alternatives to alcoholic beverages be of equal quality as those containing alcohol.

When alcohol is present at a function, it must be served and supervised by a designated adult. Alcoholic beverages should not be left unattended.

The promotion of church functions must not use alcohol as an enticement to participation. No announcements, advertisements or promotional material should imply that drinking alcohol is a social requirement.

Alcoholic beverages should not be a part of the title or name of church events; e.g., *Bratwurst Festival*, not *Beer and Bratwurst*; *Reception with Hors d'oeuvres* or *Reception with Light Refreshments*, not *Wine and Cheese Reception*. However, if alcohol is to be served at an event, this fact should be made clear ahead of time. The following statement should be included in a description of the event: "Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available."

All beverages and food containing alcohol must be clearly and distinctly labeled. This guideline is most often forgotten where food is concerned. It must be remembered that the flavor of liquor (in food where the alcohol has been cooked out) is something that many persons in recovery wish to avoid.

If alcohol is present at a function, it must be openly served, not hidden or privately offered to a select few; the presence of alcohol may not be treated as a secret at any event. Alcohol to be served at an event should be provided by the host or under the host's direction. "BYO" or "bring your own bottle" provision of alcohol is not permitted. Persons attending non-alcoholic events may not bring in alcohol for private consumption.

Alcohol should not be served in such a way as to teach children that growing up necessarily implies alcohol consumption.

All federal, state and local laws and ordinances must be observed. This includes regulations requiring licenses for the sale of alcohol, prohibiting the distribution of alcohol to minors, and serving alcohol to intoxicated persons. Serving alcoholic beverages entails incurring moral as well as potential legal and financial liability for those who become intoxicated. It is expected that the event host will take responsibility for the safety of persons who become intoxicated at church functions (up to and including transportation for those whose driving might be impaired).

This policy is understood to apply table-by-table at table-hosted parish functions such as the Calendar Party. Table hosts are responsible for the observance of this alcohol policy for their table at such events. This policy also applies to Trinity events hosted in private homes.

Policy established by vote of the Vestry January 14, 2020