



## Alcohol Use Policy

The policy of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas provides guidance concerning the use of alcohol in church buildings, school buildings, camp locations and other institutions of the Diocese.

It is the responsibility of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee, in consultation with the Rector/Vicar, to implement this policy making it known to the congregations and to individuals responsible for planning events on church property.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a structure for reasonable and responsible use of alcohol within congregational life; to honor and protect those who choose not to consume alcoholic beverages; to strengthen the health and well-being of the Church; and, to provide a safe and welcoming environment.

This policy is to be posted in church kitchens and made available to individuals when scheduling events.

1. Serving of alcoholic beverages is to be done in moderation with the monitoring and serving of an adult.
2. Serving of alcoholic beverages must be done by handing the beverage to an adult and must not be left on tables in a "self-serve" style.
3. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
4. Food and beverage prepared with alcohol, including punches, must be clearly labeled and served by an adult.
5. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
6. All unused alcoholic beverages are to be removed from church premises as soon as possible following an event. At no time should it be stored in places accessible to children or youth.
7. Drinking alcohol should not be the focal point of any event, either on or off church property.
8. Serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event, e.g. "wine and cheese reception", "cocktail party", and "beer and wine tasting" or any similar language.
9. Recognizing the effects of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the church is being conducted.
10. Alcoholic beverages should not be served to adults at any children and youth events.
11. If hard liquor is offered by a non-church group on premises, a professional licensed alcoholic beverage server must be contracted by the party hosts.
12. Non-church groups using church facilities must provide proof of liability insurance to the church prior to the event.
13. Even mildly intoxicated persons should be provided safe transportation.
14. The responsible party for non-church groups using church facilities for events where alcoholic beverages will be served, must read and sign a copy of this policy agreeing to abide by it.

Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a reverential manner that does not foster or model misuse. At no time shall the remains be offered to an Acolyte or LEM who is under the age of 21. In addition, Clergy are encouraged to make known the efficacy of receiving the sacrament in one kind.

All congregations are encouraged to host a recovery event, educational seminar or Recovery Sunday service at least every other year. Resources are available through Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church and DWTX Recovery Ministries Commission in planning recovery events and referrals for assistance to outside providers.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church  
(866) 306-1542  
[www.episcopalrecovery.org](http://www.episcopalrecovery.org)

DWTX Recovery Ministries Commission  
(210 or 888) 824-5387  
[www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org)