

Alcohol Use Policy

Approved by Board on May 20, 2014

This policy governs the use of alcohol on church property and at church events.

Board Policy

The serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages on church property is allowed under strict limitations in order to safeguard the wellbeing of church members, staff and guests, to assure compliance with state and local laws and regulations and to minimize risks for and limit the liability of all parties.

The board delegates to the staff the authority to permit or not permit alcohol at its discretion.

When such permission is granted, the organization or individual hosting the event assumes responsibility for keeping the event safe and assuring that participants and guests adhere to the church alcohol use policy and to state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

1. Events held by church groups on church property (including property rented for church use) [□]

1. Advance notice must be given to the office when alcohol is going to be served at an event, and organizers must agree to read and follow the policy they are given.
2. Groups serving alcohol regularly must read and agree to follow the policy once yearly.
3. Attractive alternative beverages must also be served whenever alcohol is served.
4. A donation may be collected, but no alcohol may be sold.
5. If minors are present, special care must be taken to see that they do not consume alcohol.
6. Inebriated persons may not be served alcohol and must be discouraged from driving.
7. No hard liquor may be served.

1. Events held by church groups off church property (excluding property rented for church use)

1. The church explicitly excludes from the purview of its alcohol policy events hosted off campus even if the events support the programs and purposes of the church. If the host of such an event chooses to serve alcoholic beverages at such an event, the host assumes all liability therefrom.

3. Alcohol use by renters and other non-church groups is not permitted unless:

1. Permission has been granted to serve alcohol for ritual purposes (e.g. communion).

*A church group is defined as one in which 2/3 or more of those in the group are church members or friends.

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2. Permission has been granted for a catered event and the caterer takes responsibility for the serving of alcohol.
 - a. The caterer must be a licensed server of alcoholic beverages and must serve in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.
 - b. The caterer must provide evidence of liquor liability insurance.

Staff Policy

1. Events held by church groups on church property (including property rented for church use)[□]

1. The staff will provide all groups requesting permission to serve alcohol a copy of the alcohol use policy. This must be signed by the designated leader and returned to the office.
2. The designated leader must be present at the event and assumes responsibility for assuring that the policy is followed before, during and after the event.
3. Groups serving alcohol regularly will be given the policy yearly. The policy must be signed by any person agreeing to be responsible for a particular event and at least one person who has signed the policy must be present at every event where alcohol is served.
4. Staff will disseminate information about the policy, but not having a copy of the policy does not relieve the organizer of an event from the responsibility to comply with it.
 - a. The Staff will post the current policy on the Church Website.
 - b. The Staff will post a synopsis of the policy at appropriate locations on the property.
5. No alcohol may be stored on the premises, and all empty alcohol containers must be removed at the end of the event.

2. Events held by church groups off church property (excluding property rented for church use)

1. When the Staff becomes aware of plans for an event to be held by a church group off church property, the Staff will endeavor to inform the organizer about the policy regarding such events, in particular that the Church assumes no liability if alcoholic beverages are served, and that the host must assume all liability.

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1. Alcohol use by renters and other non-church groups

1. If permission is granted to serve alcohol, the rental contract or property use agreement must include all requirements set forth in the policy.
2. Before the contract for a catered event goes into effect, the organizer's agreement with a licensed caterer and evidence of the caterer's certification and insurance must be on file in the office.
3. The organizer must designate a representative responsible for assuring that proper decorum and behavior is observed before, during and after the event. The name and contact information for the representative must be on file in the office, and the representative must be present throughout the event.
4. A church facility host must be present at the event.