

St. David's Episcopal Church Alcohol Policy

Preamble of Resolution A158 of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2015):
“Resolved, that...the 78th General Convention acknowledges the Episcopal Church’s long-standing tolerance for the use of alcohol which, in some cases, has contributed to its misuse, and has undermined a climate of wholeness and holiness for all; that our Church culture too often avoids hard conversations about alcohol use, and the role of forgiveness and compassion in healing and recovery; and that the Episcopal Church now commits to create a new normal in our relationship with alcohol. We aspire to be a place in which conversations about alcohol, substance misuse, or addiction are not simply about treatment but about renewal, justice, wholeness and healing. We affirm that Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church has long been and continues to be a valuable resource for this work; and be it further Resolved, that the 78th Convention adopt the following policy on alcohol and other substance misuse and encourage dioceses, congregations, seminaries, schools, young adult ministries, and affiliated institutions to update their policies on the use of alcohol and other substances with the potential for misuse.”

Recognizing our obligation to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery, the following policies will be observed. These policies are based on the alcohol policy of the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

1. All applicable federal, state, and local laws will be obeyed including the serving of alcohol to minors.
2. Consumption of alcoholic beverages must be monitored; those showing signs of intoxication must not be served.
3. The Rector must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of the execution of their oversight responsibilities.
4. If minors are present at events where alcohol is served, alcohol must be served at a separate location that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
5. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be clearly identified as such.
6. Whenever alcohol is served, non-alcoholic alternatives and food will be offered.
7. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as the only attraction of the event.
8. The groups or organizations, including St. David's, sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission of the Vestry. 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 be impaired.
9. Alcoholic beverages will not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted or during coffee hour. With prior Vestry approval at a regularly scheduled meeting, alcohol may be served at other events.