

**Alcohol Policy for
St. John's Norwood Parish
September 2017**

The foundation and framework of this policy is Resolution A158 adopted by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2015. The Episcopal Diocese of Washington adopted the policy in December 2015 and asked parishes to adopt it for their own congregation by September 2016.

1. St. John's Norwood Parish aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people of all ages, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws will be obeyed, including those governing the serving or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21.
3. Hard liquor/spirits will not be served at parish events. Wine and beer are permissible.
4. When alcohol is served, it will be monitored by an adult and those showing signs of intoxication will not be served.
5. When alcohol is served at parish events of 25 or more, the event organizer will appoint an adult to oversee the serving of alcohol. That adult should not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities.
6. When minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking. Minors may not open, serve or imbibe alcohol at any parish event.
7. When alcohol is served, a variety of appealing non-alcoholic alternatives will be offered with equal prominence and accessibility. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be clearly labeled as such.
8. Food will be served when alcohol is present. On these occasions, half of the total food served should be nutritious and substantive. When alcohol is used in the preparation of a food item, it will be clearly labeled as such.
9. Bottles or cans containing alcohol may not be left in the refrigerator in the kitchen after an event. Unopened items may be stored in the locked cabinet in the kitchen, and open items should be discarded or taken home.
10. Alcohol consumption will not be the focus of any ministry or event. The serving of alcoholic beverages at parish events, if publicized, will be mentioned as a secondary or tertiary part of the event.
11. Groups or persons hosting an event where alcoholic beverages are served should attend to any person who may become intoxicated. The organizer or host should arrange alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired and may apply to the clergy for reimbursement of any expense incurred.

12. Alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted.
13. Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, the serving of wine when celebrating the Eucharist is permitted.
14. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse. Excess consecrated wine may be reserved for future use, poured into a piscina, poured into the ground or otherwise reverently disposed of. No one is required to consume excess consecrated wine.
15. Receiving the sacrament in one kind (bread only) is perfectly valid and the use of non-alcoholic wine as an alternative at the Eucharist may be considered.
16. After adopting an Alcohol Policy for St John's Norwood, the Wardens and Vestry will ensure that it is communicated to the parish, with special notice made to ministry leaders.
17. The Alcohol Policy will be reviewed by the Wardens and Vestry six months after its adoption, and periodically as necessary, to ensure that it meets the needs of the parish.