

RESOLUTION

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2015

TITLE: Adoption of Guidelines For The Use Of Alcoholic Beverages

PROPOSED BY:

The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos
The Very Rev. Dr. Brian D. Baker
The Rev. Cindy Long
The Rev. Canon Stephen Carpenter
The Rev. Megan Anderson
Ms. Lisa Sargent
Mr. Charles Mack
Ms. Joyce Paterson
Mr. James Jordan
Ms. Anne Clarke

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE: The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos

REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION: The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos

DATE: September 14, 2015

RESOLVED, that the 2015 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California adopt the following policy on alcohol and other substance misuse, and encourage its congregations, schools, young adult ministries and affiliated institutions to update their policies on the use of alcohol and other substances with the potential for misuse as adapted from Resolution A-158 passed by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. These policies should consider the following:

1. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws shall be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
3. Some congregations may decide not to serve alcohol at events or gatherings. Others may decide to permit a limited use of alcoholic beverages at church-sponsored events. Both can be appropriate if approached mindfully.

4. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served. Whenever alcohol is served, the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge, wardens or the head of school must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. If hard liquor is served, a certified server is required.
5. Serving alcoholic beverages at congregational events where minors are present is strongly discouraged. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
6. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in this case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
7. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
8. The 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."
9. Ministries inside or outside of congregations will make certain that alcohol consumption is not the focus of the ministry and that drinking alcohol is not an exclusive normative activity.
10. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
11. All groups or organizations sponsoring an activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the clergy or the vestry or Board of Trustees of schools. Copies of this policy must be provided to them and written acknowledgment of receipt of the policy must be provided prior to the event. 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. Consulting with liability insurance carriers is advised.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. We encourage clergy to acknowledge the efficacy of receiving the sacrament in one kind and consider providing non-alcoholic wine. Use of grape juice requires consultation with and approval of the Bishop.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION:

Although the diocese has previously adopted guidelines for the use of alcoholic beverages in the local church in 1994; at the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church held in Salt Lake City this year, Resolution A-158 was passed, and the above-mentioned guidelines were adopted. In its resolution the 78th General Convention acknowledged 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. 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. The passage of this resolution will bring our diocese into partnership with The Episcopal Church as we join in this effort.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with the passage of this resolution.

RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The passage of this resolution will continue to promote the wholeness and holiness of our communal life as we continue to live into the ministry of reconciliation through Jesus Christ to which we are all called as the Body of Christ. Our efforts in this area will result in continued development of healthy congregations as we seek to proclaim the Good News. Healthy and appropriate use of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will serve as examples to our youth and young adults that we are serious about living lives that promote good spiritual and physical well-being as we care for all of God's creation.