

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY COMMISSION OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

*(formerly known as The Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Commission)*

### OUR HISTORY:

The 1979 General Convention Resolution on alcoholism committed the Church to a position anticipating the problems and needs of the victims of chemical dependency and to raising consciousness about alcohol and drug use and misuse.

The 1985 General Convention Resolution on Alcohol and Drug Abuse reaffirmed the earlier position and defined a policy for the use of alcoholic beverages in parishes, calling for education and employee assistance programs.

*The Fifth Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Tennessee (1987) called for the appointment of an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee to develop comprehensive resources in West Tennessee in response to the policies of the General Convention.*

### OUR PURPOSE:

**The purpose of the Addiction and Recovery Commission is to offer the Church as a resource for the education, care and support of people affected by the spiritual despair and disease of addiction.**

“The Church must be seen as the community of compassion to all those whose health and freedom have been lost through addiction. In the Diocese of West Tennessee, *The Addiction and Recovery Commission* seeks to help the Church in its ministry to alcoholics and the addicted as well as those whose lives are affected by their disease. I commend the work of the Commission to every member of this Diocese. Their goals of information, intervention and support are essential if we are to be responsible stewards of creation in the use of alcohol and compassionate in our efforts to strengthen our addicted brothers and sisters in recovery.”



## GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF ALCOHOL AT CHURCH FUNCTIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

The decision to offer alcohol at any church function in the Diocese of West Tennessee will depend upon these considerations:

1. When used, it should be to appropriately enhance the event at which it is being served and, should never be the primary purpose of the event.
2. There should be a commitment to clear and distinct labeling and monitoring of all beverages and foods containing alcohol.
3. Food and attractive, non-alcoholic alternative beverages should be available for those who choose to abstain.
4. Food and beverages containing alcohol should be presented in such a way that does not seem to promote or require their use for full participation.
5. The sponsoring organization or individual should be aware of its (their) responsibility to adhere to all federal, state and local laws and ordinances regarding the sale, dispensing and control of alcohol and the incurred liability for the actions of intoxicated persons. This includes providing safe transportation for intoxicated persons.
6. The improper or criminal use of any controlled substance is strictly forbidden. This includes serving alcoholic beverages to minors as well as the abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs at any Church function,
7. The proper implementation of these guidelines is the responsibility of the clergy and lay leadership of each congregation in this Diocese.

For further information or to share your concerns, please contact the commission at the following address:

The Addiction and Recovery Commission  
692 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38105