

# Talking Points of the Proposed Alcohol Policy

## Why Alcohol? Why Now?

Our mission is to “Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ.” Our facilities are one of the major parts of accomplishing our mission within our congregation as well as the larger community. To that end, Central Union Church (CUC) regularly rents out its facilities such as the Parish Hall. Since CUC is centrally located with ample parking, we are highly sought out in the facilities rental market. Over the last several years, many potential rental groups have asked whether we allow alcohol to be served on campus. Towards this end, the Church Council decided to look into our alcohol policy.

Allowing alcohol on campus does not require a congregational vote. However, the Council believes, in the spirit of transparency and communication, that it’s best to present the draft policy, explain the reasoning behind it, and elicit feedback. Learning Tree sessions will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Background:

In September 2014, the Stewardship Committee presented, and the Council approved, the concept of allowing alcohol on campus during specific events (sponsored internally and externally), which could possibly result in increased revenue for the Church. Examples of these events include:

- **Weddings:** By allowing alcohol on campus, the bride and groom would be able to host a reception (with alcohol) in the Parish Hall.
- **Other Events:** By allowing alcohol, CUC may be able to offer a venue for events like Retirement parties; Wine Tasting; and Food Truck Fridays; Fundraising Events for the Preschool (Oktoberfest).

It is also important to remember that alcohol is not prohibited in the scriptures. In fact, Jesus’ first miracle was turning water into wine and the cup which symbolizes the New Covenant was filled with wine. The only prohibited acts concerning alcohol is drunkenness. Therefore, a part of the General Rules for Use of Alcoholic Beverages, which are shared as an

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attachment in this email, addresses the overconsumption of alcohol on campus.

## **Materials to be shared with the Congregation:**

The draft policy outlines:

- Insurance requirements;
- The need for a liquor license and how to obtain a temporary 1-day license (FILE/FORM #9);
- Limited selection of alcohol that is offered (beer, wine, sake);
- General Rules for Use of Alcoholic Beverages.

## **Questions for the Ministries & Congregation:**

- The Church Council wants your candid feedback. Please take some time to study the above-shared documents and share your opinions with us by using this Google doc ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1etOJ7meDCYi6z67S8qAQ\\_dPOWd\\_RxUpAdZ35va0QWxw/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1etOJ7meDCYi6z67S8qAQ_dPOWd_RxUpAdZ35va0QWxw/viewform?usp=send_form))