

Policy In The Church

Policy in the church is defined by our faith and our mission. It is never to be rigidly legalistic in every situation. There are many situations and there are many variables. In the church our aim is to live by the gospel. However, policy does provide guidelines and directions that will assist us.

I. Official Policy

This is defined in detail in the *Discipline of the United Methodist Church* which is published every four years after being defined and refined by the General Conference of our denomination. The *Discipline* has statements about usage of church property, who is allowed to conduct meetings in a church, the characteristics of leaders and how inactive members may be removed from church membership rolls. For the official policy consult the *Discipline*. There are usually at least two copies available here in the church office or library.

II. Local Church Policy

Of course, local churches can set policy in regard to their own particular situation if it is not counter to the policy and practice of the UMC as defined in the *Discipline*. The following are not meant to be exhaustive but are policies that are presently in effect.

- A. Use of alcoholic beverages at meetings where there are persons related to the formal program and ministry of the UMC.

In light of the United Methodist Church's longstanding support of abstinence from alcohol, it is the church's understanding that the following principles will guide us as we live and serve Jesus Christ together:

1. Alcoholic beverages will not be served or consumed during any event sponsored by a church-related group.
2. We will affirm abstinence from alcohol as a positive and wholesome lifestyle choice.

Reviewed 2008