

## **Licensed Local Pastors and Weddings**

### **Virginia Conference Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry**

*The License for Pastoral Ministry* is valid only to the charge or extension ministry to which the licensed local pastor is appointed. The charge/extension ministry is defined as “people within or related to the community or ministry setting being served.” (§316.1)

For the performance of marriage, a license shall be obtained through the District Court of the county of residence, after receiving the license for pastoral ministry from the Bishop. Note the limitations stated above. Since the *Book of Discipline* makes the definition of ministerial authority based on persons involved, not geography, the local pastor is allowed to officiate at a wedding for a church member when the ceremony is in another state or location (but not another local church). But the local pastor may not officiate at weddings for friends and relatives who are not part of the church/ministry setting to which the local pastor is appointed.

December 2011