

## Licensed Local Pastors, Provisional Deacons, Provisional Elders 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, Provisional Deacon, or Provisional Elder is appointed. The charge/extension ministry is defined as “people within or related to the community or ministry setting being served.” (§317.1)

For the celebration of marriage, you must be registered through the Circuit Court of the city/county of residence after receiving the License for Pastoral Ministry from the Resident Bishop. Given the Book of Discipline’s definition of the charge/extension ministry setting, if they are approved by the Circuit Court to celebrate weddings, a Licensed Local Pastor, Provisional Deacon, or Provisional Elder may celebrate weddings for any individuals at the local church/extension ministry they are licensed and appointed to serve. The Licensed Local Pastor, Provisional Deacon, or Provisional Elder is also authorized to officiate at a wedding held outside of their ministry setting as long as the wedding is performed for a member of the local church or extension ministry setting.

They are not allowed to celebrate a wedding outside of their local church or extension ministry setting for anyone who is not a member of the local church or extension ministry setting they are licensed and appointed to serve. If a Licensed Local Pastor, Provisional Deacon, or Provisional Elder is no longer under appointment, they are no longer authorized to celebrate marriages. Celebrating weddings at another local church is not authorized under any circumstance.

(Updated 10/14/2024)

(Updated 3/10/25 with the new paragraph number  
from the *United Methodist Book of Discipline 2020/2024*)