**“What God has joined together…” Bishop’s Conclusions**

What I expect from you:

Pray

Study

Consult

Congregation

Colleagues

Bishop

Pray

Clarity, Transparency, Flexibility

Leadership

Something different in different places

I am less concerned with what you and your congregation decide that I am how you decide it, and how you live with it.

Congregational Options: (within the law and after consultation)

Be an open and affirming congregation and make it known. Mission-driven.

Apply the same standards to same-gender couples that you do to heterosexuals

Allow the pastor to make case-by-case decisions, just as with other couples.

Decide to limit marriages in the building to heterosexual.

Decide to allow the pastor to use pastoral judgment in off-site weddings.

Instruct the pastor not to conduct same-sex wedding off-site or on-site.

Role of the Pastor:

Accountable: Not a long ranger.

Accountable to congregation/ministry/bishop

Leader:

Articulate vision

Listen to people

Teach, lead, provide pastoral services

Witness in community

Servant

What do you expect of me?

Prayers from the Ordination Service:

Bless her proclamation of your Word and administration of your Sacraments, O Lord, so that your Church may be gathered for praised and strengthened for service. Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, wise counselor. Grant that she may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the Church through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Care for God’s people, bear their burdens and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.