

News Release

ELCA NEWS SERVICE
May 5, 2009

Stephen Marsh Elected Bishop of ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod



CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Stephen G. Marsh was elected May 2 to a six-year term as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Southeast Michigan Synod. Marsh was elected at the synod assembly at First English Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. He is the synod's assistant to the bishop for African American strategy and justice concerns.

Marsh, 54, received 210 votes to 148 cast for the Rev. Adolph A. "Skip" Wachsmann III, Genesis Lutheran Church, Detroit, on the fifth and final ballot. The Rev. Cherlyne V. Beck, assistant to the bishop for Christian vocation, ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod, was also a candidate on the fourth ballot. There were 69 nominees on the first ballot for bishop.

Born in Chicago, Marsh is a graduate of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. He also attended Makumira Theological College in Arusha, Tanzania, in 1981.

Marsh was ordained in 1983 by the former Lutheran Church in America and served as pastor of three congregations -- St. Peter Lutheran Church, Springfield Gardens (Queens), N.Y.; The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Chicago; and The Church of the Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn, N.Y. -- before joining the staff of the ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod in 2004.

Marsh wrote the monthly "Our Faith" column during 2007-2008 for *The Lutheran*, the magazine of the ELCA.

The Rev. Kenneth R. Olsen has been serving the ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod as interim bishop, following the Aug. 16, 2008, death of the bishop, the Rev. John H.K. Schreiber.

Marsh will be installed as the synod's bishop Sept. 26 in Detroit. He is the father of an adult daughter and is a member of Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Detroit.

The ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod includes more than 59,000 baptized members in 131 congregations in 10 Michigan counties. The synod office is in Detroit.

The home page of the ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod is at <http://www.metrodetroitELCA.org/home.htm> on the Web.

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