



REV. RAYMOND G. BAINES

Metlakatla Pastor to Become Indian Work Director in Minn.

A full-blooded Alaskan Indian will become the new Executive Director of Minnesota's United Church Committee on Indian Work effective June 15 this month.

He is the Rev. Raymond G. Baines, 38, Methodist pastor of Duncan Memorial Church, an all-Indian congregation in Metlakatla, Alaska.

He will succeed the Rev. Grady Aalberts, former director, who resigned after serving for seven years to return to an Indian congregation in Winnebago, Nebraska.

A graduate of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, from which he received his B.D. degree in 1962, the Rev. Mr. Baines received his A.B. degree from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma in 1959. He had his high school training at Sheldon Jackson School at Sitka, Alaska.

His pastoral experiences included services with the El Cerrito Methodist Church, El Cerrito, Calif.; Westminster Presbyterian Church, and interracial congregation in Berkeley, Calif.; and the Methodist Church of Gardiner, Oregon. His ministerial experiences included working with Indians of numerous tribes.

In Metlakatla, he was chairman of the Community Action Committee, a member of the Metlakatla

School Board, vice president of the Metlakatla P-TA and Executive Treasurer of the Tlingit-Haida Land Suit Organization which presses for land claim reimbursements for Alaska Indians from the federal government.

He has also worked closely with state welfare agencies, public health officials, law enforcement officers and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Rev. Mr. Baines is married and has three children. His wife is the former Carolyn Fenton of Zenda, Kansas. The family will reside in Minneapolis.

The selection of Rev. Baines was announced by the Rev. Charles E. Johnson, newly elected chairman of the United Church Committee on Indian work who succeeds the Right Rev. Philip F. McNairy, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson, pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, reported that Baines was elected unanimously at a meeting last March 25 of the Committee.

"The selection of an Indian director to work with Indians is a great step forward and represents the fulfillment of a long cherished hope by committee members," Johnson said.

In accepting the position, Rev.

Baines made this statement:

"I look upon this invitation as a significant opportunity for an ecumenical ministry to people of my own race. I believe the Christian churches have a special responsibility as the Indian tries to find his way in our industrial society. I am challenged by the way the churches of Minnesota are trying to meet that responsibility."