

Episcopalians elect Charleston bishop

The Rev. Steven Charleston was elected the sixth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska earlier this month at Meier Lake Conference Center near Wasilla.

Of Choctaw and Cherokee heritage, Charleston is the fourth Native American in the Episcopal Church to be chosen for the office of bishop.

Charleston, 41, was selected by a majority of the delegates on the second ballot during the church's annual convention.

"It's hard to capture a spiritual moment in words," said the bishop-elect. "I am humbled, excited, over-

whelmed."

A graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., Charleston received his master's in divinity degree in 1976 and was ordained a priest in 1983. He served as the executive director of the National Committee on Indian Work from 1980-1982 and as director of the Dakota Leadership Program from 1982-1984.

Since 1984, the bishop-elect has been the director of cross-cultural studies and assistant professor of pastoral theology at Luthern Northwestern Theological Seminary in Min-

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nesota. He is currently the priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity/St. Anskar Parish in St. Paul, Minn.

Charleston is the originator of the Christian education series, "In the Spirit of the Circle," and has published a number of articles and books, among them, *Reflections on a Revival: The Native American Alternative*.

Charleston and his wife, Susan, have one child, Nicholas Tecumseh.

The Rt. Rev. Edmund Browning, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, will consecrate Charleston bishop of Alaska in mid-March 1991 after the necessary canonical approvals have been received.