

EARLY EDITION

Read to Congregation



Robert Drake of First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead, left, and Joe Larson of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo serve their congregations as openly gay pastors.

LED BY FAITH

SECOND OPENLY GAY, MARRIED PASTOR JOINS COMMUNITY

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Moorhead

It's a group not fully accounted for, yet growing: openly gay pastors.

In the past two years, Fargo-Moorhead has welcomed two.

Pastor Joe Larson was called to lead St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo in June 2016, becoming North Dakota's first openly gay pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On Sunday, Jan. 20, Pastor Robert

Drake was officially installed as the first openly gay pastor of Moorhead's First Presbyterian Church.

Both pastors are married, Minnesota natives and second-career pastors, meaning they previously had other professions. Drake, 48, was a carpenter and construction foreman, and Larson, 61, worked in social services.

They believe this is where God has called them to serve, but their journeys

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