

HOUSE OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

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The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh	Rochester, II
The Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger	Virginia, III

Summary of Work

The House of Bishops Theology Committee is appointed by the Presiding Bishop and serves as a resource to the bishops as they pursue their teaching ministry in the church. At present, the committee comprises nine (9) bishops and seven (7) academic theologians. The previous report on Beloved Community was published by Church Publishing under the title, *Realizing Beloved Community* in 2022. At the House of Bishops gathering during the 2022 General Convention, the Presiding Bishop asked the Committee to take up Christian nationalism as the next issue for theological investigation. The bishop members held an initial meeting during the General Convention gathering. The organizational meeting on this issue was held online in October and November 2022, followed by a hybrid meeting in Indianapolis in January 2023. The Committee submitted the first interim report to the House of Bishops gathering in March 2023. We recognized the complex and elusive nature of Christian nationalism and the large scope of this issue that easily took our conversations in many different directions. Christian nationalism in the United States has deep roots in white supremacy, even though it cuts across all racial, ethnic, and cultural groups today. Thus, “Christian” in Christian nationalism is not so much about a religious faith as an ideologically driven identity, even though religious beliefs are cleverly deployed to support its ideological stance on certain political and social issues. In the United States, the ideology of Christian nationalism consists of assumptions about white

supremacy, Anglo-Saxon nativism, patriarchy, and militarism. Two more subsequent meetings were held with an online meeting in April 2023 and another hybrid meeting at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City in June 2023. The Committee plans to hold an online meetings in December 2023 and in March 2024 in order to submit the report in time for the House of Bishops gathering at the 2024 General Convention. The final report will explore the issues of the historical theology, the Eucharistic and the baptismal theology, the Scripture, the Christian identity, disenfranchisement and isolation, the faith-based Community organizing, a case study and a global view. Christian nationalism is a sin that distorts our relationship with God and with one another.

Respectfully submitted by: The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin