

# Ad Hoc Education Committee

## Background:

Synod 2022 discussed and took action on the Human Sexuality Report. With regard to pornography, Synod decided to “solemnly take note of the pervasive sin of pornography and its harm, and lead our churches into repentance and healing.” Further, it included pornography in the list of sexual sins that are understood to be included in the Heidelberg Catechism’s reference to “unchastity” and that violate the Seventh Commandment. Synod decided that the church’s teaching on these sins is the CRC’s interpretation of a confession, and synod said that “therefore it has confessional status.”

<https://www.crcna.org/synod/hsr-faq>

The Human Sexuality Report names the widespread harm of pornography and calls churches out for being “comfortable with the objectification and domination of women”. It draws a connecting line not only from porn to abuse but to human trafficking. “We must address [porn] regularly in our churches,” it says: “lament our guilt and provide pastoral, non-judgemental care for victims and porn users”. <https://www.christiancourier.ca/the-porn-connection/>

## Mandate:

As a follow-up to the Human Sexuality Report decision by Synod:

- To investigate denominational resources such as Safe Church Ministry resources, local community resources, Right Now Media resources, Christian school resources on the topic of pornography (to start).
- To create more awareness on the topic of pornography and to keep our congregation informed and educated (and possibly the community) about the prevalence, effects and dangers of pornography as well as to share supports available for those who are struggling with pornography.
- To look into possible video series and/or speakers on the topic of pornography.
- Find out:
  1. What is pornography?
  2. How prevalent is it?
  3. How accessible it is?
  4. Affects on youth?
  5. Affects on adults?
  6. How to combat it?
  7. Biblical imperatives
  8. Supports for those who are struggling with pornography?

## Steps:

- Compile a plan and present a report to Council with recommendations as to how best to proceed to create more awareness, share information, and provide education on the topic of pornography with our congregation.
- After Council approval, move forward with implementation of the plan.

April 2023