

Things to consider before offering the course from Portico:
“Recovering Your True Identity – What Does the Bible Teach About Sexuality, Gender and Identity”
Rick Carrol

- 1) Spend an appropriate amount of time with your Sr leadership in gaining alignment around the theology being presented, as well as comfort in how you will respond to challenges. Portico leadership included a book study, attendance at a seminar, a formal review of the PAOC statement and a retreat day. This process can take anywhere from a number of months to a number of years to gain acceptable alignment on ideas around the equality of sexual sin whether it is same sex or opposite sex, the statement of being a welcoming and disciple-making community church, and the firm stance on gender and sexuality being male and female alone with sex reserved in a marriage
 - 2) Invest preparation time with any leader who will be facilitating discussion on these topics. Many times, the conversations after the presentation are more formative than the teaching itself. Even if the teacher is properly prepared and confident in the teaching, the group facilitators might answer a question with something that is misaligned to what is being presented. Portico spent 6 months with our youth and kids leaders working through the material, and two training dates with adult small group leaders to help prepare them to answer questions, and to offer examples of when concrete answers might not be helpful.
 - 3) While we are happy to make these videos available to anyone, we do suggest that anyone is comfortable and able to lead the material on their own consider doing so. These are very pastoral issues, and having the ability to share it firsthand with your own congregation can be a very impactful thing.
 - 4) We recommend having counsellors or book resources available as recommendations to your church family following the teaching. As a church, we recommended Preston Sprinkle both as an author and podcaster, Christopher Yuan and Wendy Vanderwal-Gritter. We also had free counselling available to anyone who needed it through our health and wellness centre – www.PORTICO.cc/CareCentre.
- If we can be of support in any way, doing a conference call with your team or having an information session with a group from your church, please don't hesitate to reach out Rick Carrol (rcarrol@porticocanada.ca).