



## **Statement regarding SBL and Former Member Jan Joosten**

Please accept the profound apologies from the SBL Council for what has struck many as an insensitive response to the conviction of Jan Joosten for possession of child pornography. We express unequivocally our horror and disgust in the face of such behavior. We are saddened and outraged at the sexual and other forms of abuse of children upon which such behavior depends and which it also fosters and facilitates.

Since learning about this situation on Monday morning and receiving legal counsel, we decided upon and are in the process of implementing several measures. We asked Jan Joosten to step down from all SBL activities, and he did so. We are now continuing to discuss this matter with legal counsel and the relevant SBL committees. Other measures to address this as well as to revise policies and membership terms will be announced when they are finalized.

Addressing such severe criminal behavior, or the more frequent abuses of power, such as sexual harassment, is not a matter that can be resolved merely by a statement. SBL has procedures in place to address such issues, and we ask for your patience as we strengthen these and continue to work through the layers of action that the entire Council, SBL staff, and many of you believe must be taken. With you, we will continue to build a strongly ethical and intellectual professional society.

Sincerely,

The SBL Council  
Efraín Agosto, Chair  
Ehud Ben Zvi  
Christian Brady  
Marc Brettler  
Tat-siong Benny Liew  
Monica Melanchthon  
Laura Nasrallah  
Judith Newman, Secretary  
Jorunn Økland  
Hugh Rowland Page, Jr.  
Adele Reinhartz, President  
Chris Rollston  
James C. Vanderkam, Vice President  
Sidnie White Crawford  
John F. Kutsko, Executive Director