

1 **To Restore the Binding Key to the Rites of Ordination and Installation of a**
2 **Pastor**

3 **RESOLUTION 5-02**

4 WHEREAS, Jesus says in Matthew 16:19, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom
5 of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever
6 you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Again, He says in Matthew 18:18,
7 “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and
8 whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” And, in John 20:21-23,
9 “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I
10 am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
11 “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you
12 withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld,”; and

13 WHEREAS, The ordination and installation rites in the The Lutheran Hymnal
14 Agenda ask only three questions of the man to be ordained and installed and do not
15 go into detail about the duties of the Christ’s Office that he will perform, but asks
16 only if the man intends to discharge those duties faithfully in accordance with the
17 Scriptures and the Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church;ⁱ and

18 WHEREAS, The ordination and installation rites in the Lutheran Worship
19 Agenda specifically include the reading of John 20:21-23 and expand the number
20 of questions asked of the man being ordained and installed to six while also going
21 into more detail about the duties of Christ’s Office that he will fill, including
22 explicitly mentioning the Loosing Key but omitting mention of the Binding Key;ⁱⁱ
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The ordination and installation rites in the Lutheran Service Book
25 Agenda add a seventh question for the man being ordained and installed while
26 making only a minor change in the wording of other questions and also explicitly
27 mention the Loosing Key but continue to omit mention of the Binding Key;ⁱⁱⁱ and

28 WHEREAS, This omission of the Binding Key leaves out a significant portion of
29 Christ’s command and necessary Christian doctrine and may improperly teach the
30 full extent of the pastoral office’s responsibility; therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in Convention instruct the current and all
32 future Montana District Presidents to include these words in the Rites of Ordination
33 and Installation of Pastors: “and do you promise to retain the sins of those who are
34 impenitent as long as they do not repent,” when he or his agent conduct these rites;
35 and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in Convention request the Board for National
37 Mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to insert the Binding Key
38 language where applicable into the Rite of Ordination; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, that the Board for National Mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri
40 Synod deliver the revised rite to Concordia Publishing House for publication, or
41 announce that they choose not to include the Binding Key in the Rite of Ordination
42 and publicly provide the rationale for continuing to omit the Binding Key by
43 November 30th, 2024; and be it finally

44 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in Convention petition the Synod in
45 Convention to direct the Board for National Mission of the Lutheran Church—
46 Missouri Synod to make this inclusion.

47 ⁱ **The Ordination of a Minister:**

48 “Dost thou believe the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament to be the
49 inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice? *Answer*: I
50 do so believe.”

51 “Dost thou hold and profess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as
52 laid down in the Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, to wit, the
53 three Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the same, the
54 Smalcald Articles, the Small and Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, to
55 be the true doctrine of the Holy Scriptures? *Answer*: I do so hold and profess.”

56 “Art thou determined to discharge faithfully the duties of the holy ministry [in this
57 Congregation] in full accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the said Symbols of
58 the Evangelical Lutheran Church? *Answer*: I have so determined by the grace of
59 God.”

60 **The Ordination and Installation of a Minister:**

61 “Dost thou believe the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament to be the
62 inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice? *Answer*: I
63 do so believe.”

64 “Dost thou hold and profess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as
65 laid down in the Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, especially the
66 three Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the same, the
67 Smalcald Articles, the Small and Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, to
68 be the true doctrine of the Holy Scriptures? *Answer*: I do so hold and profess.”

69 “Art thou determined to discharge faithfully the duties of the holy ministry in this
70 Congregation in full accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the said Symbols of

71 the Evangelical Lutheran Church? *Answer:* I have so determined by the grace of
72 God.”

73 **The Installation of a Pastor:**

74 “I ask thee, therefore, dear Brother, in the presence of God and this Congregation:
75 Art thou willing and ready to take upon thee the charge of this Congregation, and
76 to perform faithfully all the duties of thy ministry? *Answer:* I am.”

77 “Wilt thou preach and teach the pure Word of God in accordance with the
78 Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and adorn the doctrine of our
79 Savior by a godly and holy life? *Answer:* Yes, with the help of God.”

80 (TLH Liturgy and Agenda, CPH 1921, pg. 375 – 385)

81 ii “Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian
82 doctrine; will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never
83 to divulge the sins confessed to you; will you minister faithfully to the sick and
84 dying; will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry, admonish
85 the people to a lively confidence in Christ and holy living? *Response:* I will with
86 the help of God.”

87 (LW Agenda, CPH 1984, pg. 205-221)

88 iii “Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian
89 doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never
90 to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and
91 dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry
92 centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively
93 confidence in Christ and in holy living?” *Response:* Yes, I will, with the help of
94 God.”

95 (LSB Agenda, CPH 2006, pg. 160-181)