MODERATOR [RAP GAVEL ON PULPIT]
Good morning! I am Ed Lancaster, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, and I call the 134th stated meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee to order. Let us worship God.

WORSHIP / THEN BREAK . . . AFTER BREAK:

MODERATOR ED LANCASTER
I call this meeting back to order, and declare we have a quorum present.

In order to run this meeting efficiently, I would ask that if you wish to speak to an issue or ask a question today, please go to the microphone and wait to be called on. After I have called on you, introduce yourself and ask your question or make your motion.

I invite Donovan Drake, pastor at Westminster, to welcome us.

[WELCOME BY DONOVAN]

Thank you, Donovan.
Are there any first time presbyters here today? Please stand – welcome! First time presbyters are easy to recognize – they are the ones with yellow star stickers on their name tags.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any guests here with us today, including The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and The Rev. Terry Newland, Executive of the Synod of Living Waters. The Presbytery’s Mission and Operations Manual allows for the seating of corresponding members. If there are no objections, these persons will be listed with the roll.

[1]
The agenda for today’s meeting was included in the presbytery packet. We have some additional items of business to act on. The presbytery’s standing rules require that reports requiring action be presented to commissioners in writing seven days in advance of the meeting. I will ask for a motion to set aside the presbytery’s standing rules to receive this report.

[WAIT FOR MOTION].

Thank you, is there a second? [WAIT]

The motion before us is to set aside the standing rules to receive reports requiring action by the presbytery, and this requires a 3/4 vote of members present.

All those in favor of setting aside the standing rules, say “aye.” [WAIT] All those opposed, say “no.” [WAIT]

The motion is approved. The agenda is now before you. Are there any questions? [WAIT] Any objections? [WAIT]

Seeing none, it is so ordered.

We are now at agenda item 5, the Stated Clerk’s report.

STATED CLERK  
Will remind everyone about reports from Finance Committee and Hunger Action Advocate.

Mr. Moderator, there are six items to admit to record.

MODERATOR  
So ordered.
STATED CLERK
Mr. Moderator, I have three recommendations related to the approval of minutes – and rolls.

At the May 3 Presbytery meeting, the roll from the February 3 Presbytery meeting was inadvertently left out of the packet! So the roll from the 132nd stated meeting on February 3 is attached, and I move its approval.

MODERATOR
Is there a second? [WAIT]
Are there any corrections or additions? [WAIT]

Seeing none, so ordered.

STATED CLERK
Mr. Moderator, the minutes and the roll of the May 3, 2018 meeting were emailed out, and some copies were available at registration. I move approval of the May meeting minutes.

MODERATOR
Is there a second? [WAIT]

The motion before us is to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2018 stated meeting. Are there any corrections or additions? [WAIT]

Seeing none, so ordered.

STATED CLERK
The Presbytery met in a called meeting on June 26, and those meetings were included in the packet. I move approval of the called meeting minutes.
MODERATOR
Is there a second? [WAIT]

The motion before us is to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2018 stated meeting. Are there any corrections or additions?

STATED CLERK
Mr. Moderator, I have a correction to the roll – Rev. Beth McCaw is pastor of Telos@Southminster, not The Next Door.

MODERATOR
Are there any corrections or additions? [WAIT]

All those in favor of approving the minutes as amended, say “aye.” [WAIT] All those opposed, say “no.” [WAIT]
The minutes (as amended) are approved.

STATED CLERK
Thank you, Mr. Moderator, this concludes my report.

MODERATOR
Our next item of business is agenda item 6, a report from the Administrative Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE / MARY LOUISE MCCULLOUGH
Mr. Moderator, I am Mary Louise McCullough, a teaching elder and a member of the Administrative Committee. The committee has 12 items to admit to record.

MODERATOR
So ordered.
Mr. Moderator, I would like to call attention to one of the “admit to record” items. The Administrative Committee unanimously approved The Rev. Dr. Carol Tate to serve as interim Executive Presbyter, effective August 6, 2018. The initial contract is for 32 hours / week, for one year, or until the permanent EP is called and installed. The COM will need to approve the contract and terms, and the Administrative Committee will forward a bio and additional information next week.

[Perhaps the Moderator invites Carol to stand and Mary Louise offers some remarks about the committee’s work in seeking / selecting an interim so that there would be an orderly transition after Warner’s retirement.]

Mr. Moderator, the Administrative Committee has one recommendation, and that is that the Presbytery set aside its standing rules to allow the February 2019 meeting to be held on Thursday, February 14, instead of Saturday, February 2.

The recommendation is before us. Would you like to speak to it?

Mr. Moderator, Dr. Ted Wardlaw, president of Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary has been invited to preach, and February 14 is the only date in February that he can attend.

Is there any discussion? [WAIT]

The motion before us is to set aside the standing rules so that the February 2019 stated meeting will be on Thursday, February 14. This requires a 3/4 vote of members present.
All those in favor of setting aside the standing rules for the February meeting date, say “aye.” [WAIT]
All those opposed, say “no.” [WAIT]

The recommendation is approved / not approved. [If not approved, you can say this will go back to the Administrative Committee.]

ADMIN CMTE / MCCULLOUGH
Mr. Moderator, this concludes the Administrative Committee report.

MODERATOR
Thank you. Next we will hear from J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Agenda Item 7. Welcome, J. Herbert!

J HERBERT NELSON
Report / Q & A
[technically, as Moderator, you will call for questions, but I suspect J Herbert will]

MODERATOR
Thank you. Our final item of business before lunch is a report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

CPM / MIKE WILSON
Mr. Moderator, I am Mike Wilson, pastor at The Downtown Presbyterian Church, and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The committee reports that Candidate T. Wes Moore is certified ready for call. We also report that Ashley McFaul-Erwin received a call, which presbytery approved June 26!
The committee has one recommendation – that Inquirer Lee Catoe be approved for Candidacy. I would ask that Lee tell us about his sense of call and Christian service undertaken.

Intro of Lee

MODERATOR
Are there any questions for Lee? [WAIT]

Mike, can you and Lee step out of the sanctuary? [WAIT]

Is there any discussion on the recommendation? [WAIT] Are you ready to vote?
All those in favor of approving Lee Catoe for candidacy, say “aye.” [WAIT]
All those opposed, say “no.” [WAIT]

The recommendation is approved.
Can someone get Lee and Mike back into the sanctuary?

Lee, I am pleased to report that you have been received as a candidate under care of the presbytery.

We have some liturgy for this occasion:

Hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Lee, would you please answer the following questions:
(1) Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament?

(2) Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?

(3) Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?

(4) Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a Candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

By action of the Presbytery, and by your answer to these questions, you are now received as a Candidate for Ministry. We welcome you to this new relationship.

Who will be giving the charge and prayer for Lee today?
_______________ – Charge
_______________ - Prayer

MODERATOR
Now unto the One who is able to do exceedingly more than we can ask or think, according to the power at work in us; to God be glory in the Church, through Jesus Christ, to all generations. Amen.

Are there persons here today in support of this candidate? Please stand and be recognized!

CPM / WILSON
Mr. Moderator, that concludes the committee’s report.
Thank you. It is now time for lunch – are there any instructions for lunch? [Warner may have some]

MODERATOR

*Rap gavel and state:* We are in recess for lunch. We will reconvene at 1:00pm.

*After lunch:*

MODERATOR

*Rap gavel and state:* I call this meeting back to order. Let us pray.

[prayer by moderator]

MODERATOR

Next on the agenda is item 9, a report from the Committee on Church Transformation.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH TRANSFORMATION / PHIL MARTIN

Mr. Moderator, I am Phil Martin, a ruling elder at First Nashville, and chair of the Committee on Church Transformation. [Speaks briefly of the committee’s work and report to the presbytery.]

Mr. Moderator, I’d like to ask Keith Gunter to talk about the New Creation Presbyterian Church.

*Keith gives his “elevator speech” on the church; maybe lifts up the folks at First Nashville who have been so instrumental in helping start this ministry; calls attention to report 9C.*

Mr. Moderator, the Committee on Church Transformation recommends that New Creation Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee,
be officially chartered as a congregation of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

MODERATOR
The motion is before us. Are there any questions? Any discussion? Are you ready for the question?

All those in favor of chartering the New Creation Church, please say “aye.” [WAIT]
All opposed, say “no.”

The motion is approved!

CHURCH TRANSFORMATION / MARTIN OR GUNTER
Mr. Moderator, I move approval of the administrative commission to charter the church, ordain and install the session, and install Keith Gunter as pastor of the new church. The commission will be on Sunday, August 12, 4PM, at New Creation. [Will have at the meeting]

MODERATOR
Is there a second?

Are you ready to vote?

All those in favor of approving the Administrative Commission to charter the New Creation Church, ordain and install the session, and install the pastor, please say “aye.” [WAIT]
All opposed, say “no.”

This motion is approved!

Are there persons here from the new church and in support of the new church? Please stand. Congratulations!
Rev. Gunter, would you please pray?

*Prayer by Keith Gunter*

**MODERATOR**

[maybe say something about what a great day this has been so far!]

Our next report is from the Committee on Ministry, agenda item 10.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY / STEPHEN YATES**

Mr. Moderator, I am Stephen Yates, pastor at First Tullahoma, and chair of the COM’s Transition Task Force. Greg Glover, the chair of COM, is out of town today.

The COM has 17 items to admit to record.

**MODERATOR**

So ordered.

**COM / YATES**

Mr. Moderator, I’d like to call the Presbytery’s attention to a number of items in the Admit to Record section – the COM has revised its Guidelines and Checklist for Churches in Transition, and a copy was provided in the packet and will be posted on the presbytery’s website.

At the called meeting of Presbytery on June 26, Bruce McVey and Ashley McFaul-Erwin were approved for ordination. Mr. McVey will be ordained and installed as pastor of First Fayetteville, and Ms. Mc-Faul Erwin will be ordained to service in a validated ministry. I’d like to introduce them both and have the presbytery welcome them.

[I hope they are both here!]

Mr. Moderator, the COM also received the Rev. Candace Klein from the Presbytery of North Alabama, and approved her call as pastor of First
Presbyterian Church, Gallatin, as well as her terms of call. I have the commission to install for approval: [INSERT]

Mr. Moderator, I move approval of this commission.

MODERATOR
Is there a second? [WAIT] Are there any questions? Any objections? Seeing none, this is so ordered.

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, I’d like to welcome Rev. Klein to the Presbytery.

MODERATOR
Welcome! Are there persons here in support of Rev. Klein? Congratulations on the call!

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, the COM also received the Rev. Michael McLaughlin from the Presbytery of St. Andrew, and approved his call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, as well as his terms of call. I have the commission to install for approval: [INSERT]

Mr. Moderator, I move approval of this commission.

MODERATOR
Is there a second? [WAIT] Are there any questions? Any objections? Seeing none, this is so ordered.

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, I’d like to welcome Rev. McLaughlin back to the Presbytery.
MODERATOR
Welcome! Are there persons here in support of Rev. McLaughlin?
Congratulations on the call!

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, the COM has three recommendations.
The first recommendation was inadvertently left out of the COM’s report; it is the commission to install The Rev. Robert Montgomery as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg. The COM recommends the following commission to install: Ruling Elders Elinor Foster, First Lewisburg; Therese Howell, Stated Clerk; Pat Smith, First Columbia: J. B. Smith, First Pulaski; and teaching elders Gary Kelley, Honorably Retired; Steve Thomas, Hillsboro; Sally Hughes, Trinity; and Carol Tate, Administrative Committee. Installation will be on September 9, 2018, at 3:00 PM.

MODERATOR
You have heard the recommendation.
Are there any questions? Any objections?
Seeing none, this is so ordered.

We should recognize Rev. Montgomery and persons in support of this call. Congratulations!

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, the Presbytery approved the retirement of Rev. David Sawyer at the May presbytery meeting, and we’d like to honor Rev. Sawyer and recognize his ministry today. Warner Durnell has prepared a resolution, and I would ask that Warner and David come forward.

WARNER DURNELL
Reads David’s resolution, and moves that it be spread upon the minutes.
MODERATOR
So ordered.

David might want to say a few words...

MODERATOR
Congratulations on your retirement!

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, the COM has one more recommendation.

We would like to honor our Executive Presbyter, Warner Durnell, on his impending retirement.

Warner – will you join me up front? And I would ask that Geeta McMillan, Carol Tate, Leonard Jordan, and Theresa Denton join us.

Reading of resolution

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, I move this resolution be spread upon the minutes.

MODERATOR
So ordered.

COM / YATES
Mr. Moderator, this concludes the COM’s report.

MODERATOR
Thank you. We are at the time of Concerns, Celebrations, and Announcements. And I would like to inform the Presbytery that the Administrative Committee wishes to use this time to celebrate the ministry of Warner Durnell!
There are some people here who would like to thank you, Warner, for your ministry.

I believe J. Herbert Nelson has a few words...

Next we will hear from Terry Newland ...

The COM has a little something for you, Warner. [framed resolution – Stephen can present]

The Stated Clerk has a gift for you, Warner...

And we have another gift for you [memory book – not sure if Linda will present it. Might have to ask someone on Admin]

Are there any others who would like to speak to Warner’s ministry?

Final gift – Ed presents / tells about gift from the entire presbytery.

There should be clapping and standing ovation.

MODERATOR
Warner’s ministry with and among us has been a powerful witness to the Gospel, and his work to move the Kingdom forward, and strengthen the “Kindom” in Middle Tennessee is very much appreciated.

After we adjourn, I invite everyone into the parlor for some cake to celebrate Warner’s retirement!

There is no unfinished business – because there is cake!

The 135th stated meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee will be on Thursday, October July 18, 2018, at the NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center, Pleasantville, Tennessee.
Is there a motion to adjourn? And a second?

Thank you – if there is no objection, we will adjourn to the parlor after a closing prayer. Let us pray.

[prayer by Moderator]

*Rap Gavel, and declare: We are adjourned.*

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