



Summary of the 45th Stated Meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery
September 26-27, 2025
Blomkest, MN

Rivers & Lakes (RLP) had an uplifting and productive meeting at Roseland Reformed Church. Here were some highlights:

Major Actions Taken:

- We welcomed First Presbyterian Church of Holland, MN into our membership.
- We examined and received TE John Werth into our membership as Pastor at Trinity PC, Sparta, IL.
- We designated the offering for every September (annual) meeting of RLP to go to our Seminarian Fund, supporting the studies of candidates for ministry.
- We adopted the "Practical Ministry Checklist" for ministerial preparation in RLP.
- We approved the budget for 2026, asking churches who are able to increase their giving to RLP to 1.25%.
- We elected a slate of officers and committee members for the next term.
- We approved the minutes of all churches who had submitted them for review.

Clerk's Report: Annie Rose gave a first reading of overtures coming from GracePoint (1) and Edgington (3). She also gave a first reading of four overtures from General Assembly. Annie reminded us that our January meeting will include a discussion of the recommendations from the Ad-Interim Committee on Same-Sex Attraction and Ordination. Those documents had been emailed to commissioners and can be found in the [Members Area of the RLP website](#). [Email Annie](#) for the password if needed.

Treasurer's Report: Terese Block gave a positive report on the financial status of RLP and explained the thinking behind the 2026 budget.

Church Planting: Jeffrey and Cathy Lancaster's church planting work continues in Chicago! Jeffrey quoted a mentor who told him, "God is at work. You don't know what he's up to." Please continue to pray for Jeffrey and Cathy's efforts to lead people to Christ and [plant a church in Chicago](#).

Church Health: Doug Hull gave an overview of the resources Church Health offers: the Refocus revitalization process, evangelism training, and access to Transitional Pastors. [Contact Doug](#) for more info.

RLP Youth Winter Camp: Via video, Katie Schneider promoted the first-ever RLP youth winter camp which will be Feb. 13-15, 2026 in Fairwood, WI. [Reach out to Katie](#) for more info.

Coalition for Christian Outreach: The [Coalition for Christian Outreach](#) is a church-based college ministry which offers training, coaching, and resources for churches who want to reach young people and integrate them into the life of the church. Guests Jen Burkholder and Lindsey Scalera led a session on "Foundations for Reaching the Next Generation." One notable quote regarding conversations with young people: "Don't shut down the questions; open the Bible!"

Updates from the General Assembly: Annie Rose thanked RLP churches for supporting the work of our General Assembly with their POI and involvement of REs and TEs on GA committees. She gave an overview of upcoming webinars and other opportunities.

Ministerial Committee: Zach Hopkins asks that any business for Ministerial Committee for our January RLP meeting be sent to his office by December 12. If you are a church in any stage of pastoral transition, [please stay in close contact with the Ministerial Committee](#).

World Outreach: Paul and Charlotte Mpindi joined us for the weekend and presented their ministry, [Mission French Africa](#), which has a radio ministry to French-speaking Africans and runs a seminary in the Congo to train local pastors. Paul asked us to support the ministry with prayer and financial contributions.

Worship & Prayer: As always, we enjoyed worshiping the Lord together on Friday evening and Saturday morning. On Friday, Brett Barksdale preached on Ephesians 5:1-21, and on Saturday morning we heard a sermon from John Werth on Romans 5:12-21. Friday we also gathered in groups to pray for the needs of our churches, pastors, candidates, and global workers.

Invitation to January 23-24 Meeting: All are invited to the 46th Stated Meeting of RLP, which will convene at [FUPC of Moline](#). Mark your calendars!