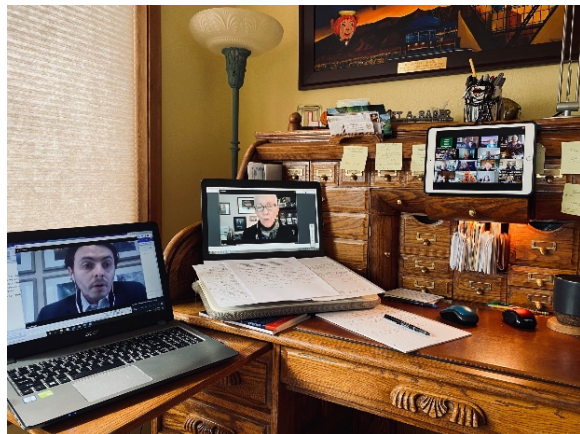


# Lutheran Advocacy Ministry- New Mexico

## Church Becoming



As the 2020 Spring Meeting of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico’s Policy Committee came to an end, members had no way of knowing the long and challenging road that would be traveled over the next year. Indeed, meeting and advocating in person would become impossible, coalition work would transform, engaging congregation’s advocacy was put on hold for much of the year, and two special sessions of the New Mexico legislature, and one 60-day regular session, were held entirely on the Zoom format. It was indeed a year of transformation and learning, one of “Church Becoming” in the ministry of advocacy.

What was learned and what transformed? New Mexico’s already existing crises in hunger, poverty, housing, and healthcare, would become worse than they already were. Racial and cultural injustice in public policy would become far more obvious.

Successful advocacy, dependent on building relationships with legislators and other state officials in-person could indeed be done online. Legislators, advocates, and the citizens of N.M. could learn to interact in Zoom meeting rooms, impacting policy, and causing transformational changes. New Mexicans would participate in the legislative process in record numbers due entirely to the new online access.

LAM–NM is a ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod in partnership with ELCA World Hunger. We advocate for justice in public policy, with a particular emphasis on alleviating poverty and hunger. We support ELCA members and congregations, our extensive ecumenical and interfaith partners, and the New Mexico Conference of Churches in the ministry of advocacy. LAM–NM speaks on behalf of the official positions of the ELCA as applied to the specific context of public policy issues in New Mexico.

### Questions for Reflection

1. How does your faith impact your positions on public policy in your state? Should it?
2. How can you and your church engage in making systemic change up-stream?