

## SESSION 1 OVERVIEW WHAT IS FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY?

Wondering how advocacy fits into our Christian and Lutheran presence in policy discussions? Session 1 of Advocacy Summer School paints a picture of advocacy and explores how advocacy is shaped by a faith foundation, especially among members and affiliates of the ELCA.

- **Foundations**  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton,  
ELCA Presiding Bishop
- **Overview in the ELCA**  
The Rev. Amy E. Reumann,  
Senior Director, ELCA  
Witness in Society
- **State Example**  
Deacon Nick Bates,  
Director, Hunger Advocacy  
Network in Ohio
- **Federal and International  
Intersections**  
Patricia Kisare, ELCA  
Program Director,  
International Policy
- **New Experience**  
Kyle Minden, ELCA Hunger  
Advocacy Fellow 2020-21,  
Lutheran Office for Public  
Policy in Wisconsin

**View this session  
from ELCA Vimeo  
channel -**

<https://vimeo.com/610026312>  
[/b69347c841](https://vimeo.com/b69347c841)

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# WHAT IS FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY?

## SESSION 1 DISCUSSION STARTER

# ADVOCACY SUMMER SCHOOL

Offered by



advocacy

[ELCA.org/advocacy](http://ELCA.org/advocacy)

In collaboration with



Stand For Justice in the Holy Land

[ELCA.org/PeaceNotWalls](http://ELCA.org/PeaceNotWalls)

## A REFLECTION FROM ELCA FOUNDATIONS

*"In witnessing to Jesus Christ, the Church announces that the God who justifies expects all people to do justice. God's good and just demands address people in the obligations of their relationships and the challenges of the world. Through the divine activity of the Law, God preserves creation, orders society, and promotes justice in a broken world. God works through the family, education, the economy, the state, and other structures necessary for life in the present age. ... This church must participate in social structures critically, for sin also is at work in the world."* - From the ELCA social statement "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective" (p. 3)

The social statement can be downloaded from  
[www.ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society](http://www.ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society).

## GETTING CONVERSATION STARTED

- What is your first reaction when you hear the word "advocacy"?
- Can you think of a time when you've advocated for yourself? For another? What prompted this?
- When have you been glad that your pastor, your congregation or the ELCA as a church body (through our presiding bishop or some other expression) advocated on a public issue? What set their voices apart from other voices on the issue?
- What is something happening in your community that makes you want to right an injustice as an aspect of your faith? What steps have you taken or might you take?

## MORE INFORMATION

Find short ELCA videos that introduce the idea of advocacy at [ELCA.org/advocacy/resources](http://ELCA.org/advocacy/resources): "[ELCA Advocacy: Set Free to Do Justice](#)" and "[ELCA Advocacy: Tips for Your Engagement](#)."

Three examples of resources from state public policy offices in the ELCA Advocacy Network explore making connections between practicing our faith through direct service and through advocacy. Check out "[Advocacy Guide for the Faith Community](#)," from Hunger Network Ohio, "[Faith in Democracy](#)," from Texas Impact, and "[Our Church Our World: Partnering With God's Mission — Steps to Building Your Congregation and Its Voice in Our Communities](#)" from the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

You may also want to look into the ELCA social message "[Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)." A study guide and Spanish translation are available to help you dig into the text.

## TAKE ACTION

Be one of the thousands of people who act on their faith resourced with updates and invitations to use Action Alerts from the ELCA Advocacy Network. Sign up at [www.elca.org/advocacy/signup](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/signup). Find us on social media @ELCAadvocacy.