

## **A CALL FOR SHIFT IN BUDGET PRIORITIES FROM MILITARY TO HUMAN NEEDS**

We the undersigned have a strong concern for world peace. We also have a strong concern for justice in the United States and elsewhere in the world. The two are interconnected.

Over the centuries many have made this connection, among them the prophet Isaiah, who wrote (54:10):

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah also indicated (32:15-17) that when "the Spirit is poured upon us from on high",

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,  
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.  
And the effect of righteousness will be peace,  
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever.

We recall these words of prophecy in this season when crucial decisions are being made on the federal budget. The budget determines spending priorities for public funds. It determines the sources of revenue for public programs and benefits. The federal budget is a focus for deciding upon the nation's response to urgent human needs. Especially in the military budget, it is a focus for deciding how the nation responds to opportunities to move away from the risk of nuclear war and other forms of international conflict. Essentially these decisions are matters of justice and peace.

Among issues presented in current consideration of the federal budget, we direct our attention to three.

First, it is essential that this nation respond with compassion and justice to persons in greatest need. They include the hungry, the homeless, families struggling to find affordable housing, the unemployed, persons whose jobs are threatened by industrial and agricultural change, children in poor families and their parents, school dropouts, unemployed youth, persons lacking financial means for adequate health care, victims of AIDS, individuals addicted to drugs, whole neighborhoods ravaged by drugs and other destructive forces. Responses must involve all sectors of society: religious organizations, nonprofit associations, government at all levels, business enterprises, and countless individuals serving as volunteers. Although the federal budget alone lacks the resources to totally solve all of these problems, it should give its highest priority to assisting persons in greatest need.

Second, while justice is a sure foundation for peace, justice cannot be achieved until

the resources of money and human talent now contained in an extraordinarily high military budget are redirected toward meeting human needs. We recall the wisdom of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, ever rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

At this juncture in international relations we have promising opportunities to work out significant arms reduction agreements with the Soviet Union and other nations. To facilitate and encourage successful negotiation of such agreements, the United States should declare a moratorium on production of additional strategic weapons and should cease the development and production of weapons that carry war into outer space. Savings produced by a strategic arms moratorium and termination of space weapons development should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs in the United States and abroad.

Third, we believe that our generation should pay our own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances. This requires us to break the habit of excessive federal borrowing, as practiced during the last eight years. It seems clear that substantial deficit reduction cannot occur through budget reductions alone, especially when justice requires sustaining and in some cases increasing the level of expenditures for programs responding to human needs. Therefore, revenue increases are essential. This can come about partially through closing tax loopholes, a process started but not completed in the Tax Reform Act of 1986. But there must also be increases in tax rates in order to have sufficient revenue for significant deficit reduction. Justice requires that such tax increases be assigned to persons and corporations who have the greatest ability to pay.

**Therefore, we make the following recommendations to Congress:**

- (1) The military budget for the 1990 Fiscal Year should (a) curtail expenditures for further development and testing of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) begin a two year moratorium on the production of any additional strategic weapons, and (c) reduce excessive funding for military hardware, especially weapons systems with high costs and questionable value.**
- (2) Savings from these reductions in military expenditures should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, the educational needs of children and youth of all segments of society, employment and training needs of youth and adults, achievement of access to adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. Furthermore, part of the savings from reduced military expenditures should also be used to assist Third World nations to achieve positive social and economic development.**
- (3) Revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through**

**rate increases, based upon the ability to pay.**

We believe that these budget decisions can help move our nation toward a society with greater justice in a more peaceful world.

Signed:

BUDGET.01 August

## A CALL FOR SHIFT IN BUDGET PRIORITIES FROM MILITARY TO HUMAN NEEDS

We the undersigned have a strong concern for world peace. We also have a strong concern for justice in the United States and elsewhere in the world. The two are interconnected. We believe that the federal budget should be just and should promote peace.

Over the centuries many have made this connection between justice and peace, among them the prophet Isaiah, who wrote (54:10):

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

And Isaiah indicated (32:15-17) that when "the Spirit is poured upon us from on high",

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,  
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.  
And the effect of righteousness will be peace,  
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever.

We recall these words of prophecy in this season when crucial decisions are being made on the federal budget. Because the budget determines spending priorities for public funds and decides who will benefit and who will pay, it can be a powerful instrument for justice. Because the military budget determines how the nation approaches current opportunities to move away from the risk of nuclear war and other

forms of international conflict, it can be a powerful instrument for peace.

The federal budget now under consideration for the 1990 Fiscal Year, which begins this coming October, contains numerous peace and justice issues. We focus on three of them, offer recommendations to the Congress, and provide an explanation for our views.

**First, we believe that the military budget for FY 1990 should be reduced by**

**(a) sharply curtailing expenditures for development, testing, and production of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) establishing a two year moratorium on the production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, and (c) cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.**

At this juncture in international relations we have a chance to work out significant agreements with the Soviet Union to reverse the direction of the arms race. Especially promising is the prospect for a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to cut in half the number of strategic nuclear warheads. To facilitate and encourage successful negotiation of such a treaty, the United States should declare a moratorium on production of additional strategic weapons and should cease the development and production of weapons that carry war into outer space.

**Second, savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, education of children**

**and youth from all segments of society, employment and training opportunities for youth and adults, adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. And increased resources should be directed toward assisting Third World nations to achieve positive social and economic development.**

We recall the wisdom of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

In our world today this theft is preventing us from responding with compassion and justice to persons in greatest need, including the hungry, the homeless, families struggling to find affordable housing, the unemployed, persons whose jobs are threatened by industrial and agricultural change, children in poor families and their parents, school dropouts, unemployed youth, persons lacking financial means for adequate health care, victims of AIDS, individuals addicted to drugs, whole neighborhoods ravaged by drugs and other destructive forces.

Responses must involve all sectors of society: religious organizations, nonprofit associations, government at all levels, business enterprises, and countless individuals serving as volunteers. The federal budget alone lacks the resources to totally solve all of these problems, but it should give its highest priority to assisting persons in greatest need.

**Third, as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay.**

We believe that our generation should pay our own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances. This requires us to break the habit of excessive federal borrowing, as practiced during the last eight years. It seems clear that substantial deficit reduction cannot occur through budget reductions alone, especially when justice requires sustaining and in many cases increasing the level of expenditures for programs responding to human needs. Therefore, revenue increases are essential. This can come about partially through closing tax loopholes, a process started but not completed in the Tax Reform Act of 1986. But there must also be increases in tax rates in order to have sufficient revenue for significant deficit reduction. Justice requires that such tax increases be assigned to persons and corporations who have the greatest ability to pay.

**We are firmly convinced that these three major budgetary decisions can help move our nation toward a society with greater justice in a more peaceful world.**

Signed:

Developed by:

Justice Contact:

421 Seward Square, SE

Washington, DC 20003

Augusted for Peace with

Howard Hallman

(301) 897-3668

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-5551

Augustommittee

I proposed that we circulate and gain signatures for the attached "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs."

After approval by the Steering Committee, I suggest that we send it as a draft to (a) the two co-chairs of our National Committee, Ed Bauman and Joshua Hutchins, (b) the five United Methodist bishops on the National Committee (Kelly, May, Minnick, Warman, and Yeakel), and (c) Bishop George Bashore, chair of the Emerging Issues Committee, UM Council of Bishops, and Bishop Dale White. We would ask them to be initial signers (with deadline of March 10).

After we have some or all of these initial signers, we should then circulate the Call to (a) all United Methodist bishops, (b) all UM conference chairs of church and society, (c) MUPJ members, (c) members of the UM General Board of Church and Society, (d) other selected United

Methodist leaders, and (e) leaders in other Methodist denominations. We could incorporate this into a March Peace/Justice Alert and ask recipients to get other signers, as well as to contact members of Congress directly on this issue.

I am trying to start a similar process in Roman Catholic circles that would parallel our outreach to United Methodists, including to bishops and diocese social action chairs. If possible, I would like to have some Catholic bishops as initial signers.

We might also reach out to other denominational leaders, especially if we can start with endorsement from United Methodist and Catholic bishops.

We should aim at completing the process and releasing the statement by the time Congress recesses on Monday, April 3, for that is when the Budget Committees will be about ready to report a budget resolution. Release could be for that Sunday or Monday, if possible with a news conference by prominent religious leaders. We should send the statement to every member of Congress.

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
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(202) 546-5551

August We are sending you the latest issue of Peace Leaf, which deals with the federal budget. We offer a biblical foundation, provide information about the budget process, the deficit, and military and domestic budget, and present an editorial that recommends a shift in budget priorities from the military to human needs. The editorial calls specifically for a halt in funding the development and production of weapons that could carry war into outer space and for a two year moratorium on production of additional strategic nuclear weapons (to give negotiations for 50 percent reduction a chance to succeed). (These are measures which move in the direction recommended in In Defense of Creation). The back page contains a Peace/Justice Alert, asking recipients to contact members of Congress about budget priorities.

On the last point, we urge you to give consideration to making a personal visit to one or more senators and representatives, perhaps taking a delegation of United Methodist clergy and laity with you. Congress will have the following recesses during March and April when many

members will be back in their states and home districts:

Senate recesses: March 20-April 2 House recess: March 24-April 2  
April 24-28

Because your episcopal area covers a number of House districts, you might want to concentrate on senators but encourage United Methodist district leaders to reach their representatives (and senators, too).

If you are unable to work a personal visit into your schedule, we hope that you will write to members of Congress, expressing your views on budget priorities.

We believe that we are in a watershed year in which this nation and other nations can make a turn toward peace, toward demobilization of vast military forces and dangerous nuclear weapons which endanger creation.

We look forward to working with you to contribute to this turn around.

Sincerely yours,

Sherman W. Harris, Chair  
Steering Committee

To: Methodists United for Peace with Justice  
421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to be a signer of "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." I understand that this Call will be released publicly in early April 1989.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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August

Some momentous decisions on national priorities are coming into focus as Congress takes up the federal budget. There is intense competition for funds between the military and programs responding to human needs. Within the military budget decisions must be made whether to continue developing weapons that could carry war into space and to construct new varieties of strategic weapons. This occurs when there are real prospects of a US/Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to cut the supply of these weapons in half. Moreover, what to do about the huge deficit is an overriding issue.

As a response to these issues, we have developed the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." Several of your colleagues from the United Methodist Council of Bishops are initial signers of this Call, and also leadership of our National Advisory Committee and our Steering Committee. **We invite you to sign this call.** A signature form and return envelope are enclosed. We would like to receive your reply no later than March 29 so that we can release the Call publicly and send it to U.S. senators and representatives when Congress reconvenes after the Easter recess on April 3.

As background on federal budget issues, we are sending you the latest issue of Peace Leaf. In it we offer a biblical foundation, provide information about the budget process, the deficit, and military and domestic budget, and present an editorial that recommends a shift in budget priorities from the military to human needs. The back page contains a Peace/Justice Alert, asking recipients to contact members of Congress about budget priorities. We urge you to do this and to encourage clergy and laity in your episcopal area to do so also. And perhaps you might make a personal visit to members of Congress when they are home for a recess. This occurs for House members from March 24 to April 2 and for Senators from March 20 to April 2 and again from April 24 to 28.

We look forward to working with you in seeking peace with justice

Sincerely yours,

Sherman W. Harris, Chair

Steering Committee

March 16, 1989

Dear United Methodist Leader:

Some momentous decisions on national priorities are coming into focus as Congress takes up the federal budget. There is intense competition for funds between the military and programs responding to human needs. Within the military budget decisions must be made whether to continue developing weapons that could carry war into space and to construct new varieties of strategic weapons. This occurs just as there are real prospects for a US/Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to cut the supply of these weapons in half. Moreover, what to do about the huge deficit is an overriding issue.

As a response to these issues, we have developed the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." Initial signers include several United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Advisory Committee, and the officers of our Steering Committee. We are asking the other United Methodist bishops to join in this Call and also people like yourself who hold leadership positions in annual conferences around the country.

**We invite you to sign the Call.** To do so, please complete the form at the bottom of this

page, clip it off, and return it to us no later than March 29. We intend to release the Call publicly on April 3 when Congress reconvenes after the Easter recess. And we'll send it to U.S. senators and representatives at that time.

You are welcome to circulate the "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities" to others in your conference and obtain their signatures. Please have their signatures to us (or have them write to us directly) by March 29. Thereafter, we will keep in touch with you to let you know how the budget is shaping up in Congress and when it is timely to contact senators and representatives on precise issues. We look forward to continue working closely with you.

Sincerely yours,

Sherman W. Harris, Chair  
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Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC 20003

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Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

March 16, 1989

Dear Member, Methodists United National Committee:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Title

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Organization

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Address

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## PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Recently United Methodist leaders from around the United States have signed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs".

This Call is addressed to the Congress and to President Bush. After presenting a brief biblical foundation, the Call offers recommendations on (i) the military budget, (ii) programs serving human needs, and (iii) taxes. And it explains why these are important concerns. (Write us for a copy of the Call.)

The Call emphasizes basic priorities but does not go into details of specific programs and dollar amounts. As an organization, Methodists United for Peace with Justice, which originated the Call, has not developed a detailed budget proposal. However, several organizations which we respect and which have considerable expertise in their fields have offered some ideas that deserve consideration. They are presented below in relation to the three basic recommendations of "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs".

### 1. MILITARY BUDGET

**First, we believe that the military budget for FY 1990 should be reduced by (a) sharply curtailing expenditures for development, testing, and production of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) establishing a two year moratorium on the production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, and (c) cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.**

Specific proposals for potential savings in the military budget have been advanced by the Center for Defense Information (CDI), an organization of retired military officers, and the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), an association of many leading scientists in the United States. A summary of their ideas follows, and sources for greater details are listed below.

#### **Twenty Ways to Reduce the Military Budget without Harming National Security: Recommendations of Retired Military Officers and Scientists**

Estimated Savings	Estimated
in Billions	in \$
<u>1991-93</u>	<u>1990</u>

**Military Space Programs**

- 1. CDI & FAS: Terminate most research and development 4.9  
15.0  
of Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), continuing  
only long-range research within ABM Treaty
- 2. FAS: Delete funding for antisatellite (ASAT) weapons ?
- 3. FAS: Delete funding for National Aerospace Plane ?

**Strategic Weapons**

- 4. Cancel (says FAS) or suspend (suggests CDI) MX missile 2.6  
? production and rail-garrison basing. CDI: Defer  
decision on Midgetman missile
- 5. Terminate (CDI) or defer production of (FAS) the est. 3.4 est. ?  
B-2 Stealth Bomber
- 6. FAS: Defer production of the Trident II missile 2.0  
?

**Nuclear Weapons Production**

- 7. CDI: 50% reduction in appropriations for design, 4.0  
15.0  
testing, and production of more nuclear warheads
- 8. FAS: Cancel special isotope separation (FIS) facility .3  
?

**Conventional Weapons**

- 9. CDI & FAS: Terminate V-22 Osprey aircraft program 1.6  
8.0
- 10. Terminate (CDI) or defer (FAS) C-17 air transport 2.9  
13.0  
planes
- 11. FAS: Defer the advanced tactical fighter (ATF) ?  
?
- 12. FAS: Defer the Light Armed Scout Helicopter (LHX) ?  
?

Estimated Savings in \$ Billions 1990  
1991-93

**Conventional Weapons, cont.**

- 13. FAS: Deter production of the Advanced Medium-Range 1.1

?			
	Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)		
14.0	CDI: Suspend manufacture of new chemical weapons		.1
15.0	CDI & FAS: Retire two 45 year old aircraft carriers		.2
2.0			
	<b>Force Structure, Civilian Workforce</b>		
16.0	CDI: Reduce troop levels overseas by 5% each year		.3
6.2			
17.0	FAS: Eliminate two of the Army's light infantry		?
?			
	divisions		
18.0	CDI: End overseas military construction and U.S.		1.5
4.5			
	contribution to NATO construction projects		
19.0	FAS: Implement in full the Ribicoff Panel's base-		.7
?			
	closing plan		
20.0	CDI: Reduce Defense Department civilian employees		.4
8.0			
	by _____ 5% each _____ year		
	Total Potential Savings		\$xx.x
	\$xx.x		

Sources: "Effective Defense for Less Money" (March 1989) Center for Defense Information, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005

"Tough Choices and the Defense Budget" (March 1989) Federation of American Scientists, 307 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

Also: For other information, Defense Budget Project, 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002

## **2. DOMESTIC BUDGET**

**Second, savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, education of children and youth from all segments of society, employment and training opportunities for youth and adults, adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. And increased resources should be directed toward assisting Third World nations to achieve positive social and economic development.**

The Coalition on Human Needs (1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC), representing xx national organizations, has offered the following recommendations for needed increases in the domestic budget, especially reflecting the needs of low- and moderate-income persons.

## **3. TAXES**

**Third, as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay.**

Citizens for Tax Justice (1311 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005), a public advocacy organization, indicates that substantial additional revenue could be obtained from the changes in income tax rates and through closing particular tax loopholes, as follows.

August Because apparently a communication to you about a "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities" did not arrive in your office, we are sending you a second copy and a modification of our original transmission letter.

We are writing to you because some momentous decisions on national priorities are coming into focus as Congress takes up the federal budget. There is intense competition for funds between the military and programs responding to human needs. Within the military budget decisions must be made whether to continue developing weapons that could carry war into space and to construct new varieties of strategic weapons. This occurs when there are real prospects of a US/Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to cut the supply of these weapons in half. Moreover, what to do about the huge deficit is an overriding issue.

As a response to these issues, we have developed the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." Several of your colleagues from the United Methodist Council of Bishops are initial signers of this Call, and also leadership of our National Advisory Committee and our Steering Committee. Subsequently another dozen United Methodist bishops have

signed on.

**We invite you to sign this call.** A signature form and return envelope are enclosed. We plan to publicly release the call on April 11 or 12. So if you want your name included perhaps you would have an assistant call us to let us know by calling the above number or by calling our issues chair, Howard Hallman, at (301) 897-3668. But also send the reply form so that we will have your consent in writing.

We look forward to working with you in seeking peace with justice

Sincerely yours,

Sherman W. Harris, Chair  
Steering Committee

Members of Congressional Budget Committees, by State

VERMONT	Sen. Warren Rudman - R
CONNECTICUT	Sen. Christopher Dodd - D
NEW YORK	Rep. Charles Schummer - D Rep. Amo Houghton - R
NEW JERSEY	Sen. Frank Lautenberg - D Rep. Frank Guarini - D Rep. Bernard Dwyer - D Rep. Dean Gallo - D
PENNSYLVANIA	Rep. Bill Goodling - R
MARYLAND	Rep. Helen Bentley - R
WEST VIRGINIA	Rep. Bob Wise - D
VIRGINIA	Sen. Charles Robb - D
SOUTH CAROLINA	Sen. Ernest Hollings - D
GEORGIA	Sen. Wyche Fowler, Jr. - D Rep. Ed Jenkins - D
MISSISSIPPI	Rep. Mike Epsy - D
TENNESSEE	Sen. Jim Sasser - D chair
KENTUCKY	Rep. Harold Rogers - R
OHIO	Rep. Marcy Kaptur - D Rep. Bill Gradison - R Rep. John Kasich - R
MICHIGAN	Sen. Donald Riegle, Jr. - D Rep. Dale Kildee - D Rep. Bill Schuette - R
ILLINOIS	Sen. Paul Simon - D Rep. Marty Russo - D Rep. Richard Durbin - D

WISCONSIN	Sen. Bobasten - R
MINNESOTA	Rep. James Oberstar - D Rep. Martin Olav Sabo - D Rep. Bill Frenzel - R ranking minority
IOWA	Sen. Charles Grassly - R
NORTH DAKOTA NEBRASKA	Sen. Kent Conrad - D Sen. J. James Exon - D
KANSAS	Rep. Jim Slattery - D
MISSOURI	Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond - R Rep. Jack Buechner - R
LOUISIANA	Sen. J. Bennet Johnston - D Rep. Jerry Huckaby - D Rep. Jim McCrery - R
OKLAHOMA	Sen. Don Nickles - R
TEXAS	Sen. Phil Gramm - R Rep. Marvin Leath - D Rep. John Bryant - D Rep. Dick Armey - R
NEW MEXICO	Sen. Pete Domenici - R ranking minority
COLORADO	Sen. Timothy Wirth - D Sen. William Armstrong - R
CALIFORNIA	Rep. Leon Panetta - D chair Rep. Barbara Boxer - D Rep. Anthony Beilenson - D Rep. Howard Berman - D Rep. William Thomas - R
IDAHO	Sen. Steve Symms - R
OREGON	Rep. Denny Smith - R
WASHINGTON	Rep. Thomas Foley - D

For immediate release Contact: Howard Hallman  
(301) 897-3668

## UNITED METHODIST LEADERS CALL FOR FEDERAL BUDGET CHANGES

Over 100 United Methodist leaders from all parts of the United States have issued "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". They advocate reduction in the military budget, use of the savings for programs meeting urgent human needs, and tax increases to help lower the federal deficit.

Signers include a majority of the United Methodist Council of Bishops and leaders of United Methodist conferences in 33 states located in every region of the United States. The call was initiated by Methodist United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy based in Washington, D.C.

The Call notes that the U.S. has an excellent chance to conclude significant arms reduction treaties with the Soviet Union. Accordingly, these United Methodist leaders recommend a two-year moratorium on production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, such as the B-2 Stealth bomber, MX and Midgetman missiles, and the Trident missile. They also favor curtailing the Strategic Defense Initiative in order to prevent war in outer space. And they recommend cutbacks in excessive funding of conventional weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.

Such recommendations are consistent with the 1986 report from the United Methodist Council of Bishops, In Defense of Creation, which rejected nuclear deterrence as a legitimate national strategy and called for substantial US/Soviet arms reduction.

Signers of the call on budget priorities believe that savings from reduction in military spending should be used to respond to needs of children and youth, especially those living in poor families.

Other domestic programs requiring increased funding include those providing employment and training opportunities, offering better health care, and responding to the needs of the homeless. The Call also sees the need for more investment in Third World social and economic development.

The Call insists that "our generation should pay its own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances." Therefore, to reduce the huge federal deficit, "significant increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay."

The signers insist that these shifts in budget priorities "can help move our nation toward a society with greater justice in a more peaceful world."

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-5551

August

## PROPOSAL FOR CITIZENS BUDGET HEARINGS

We would like to join with other organizations from the religious community to stage a series of Citizens Budget Hearings on the "budget summit agreement" on the federal budget. The purpose of the hearings would to examine how the budget summit proposal responds to urgent human needs in our society, deals with realistic (not overblown) defense needs, and takes fiscal responsibility for the federal deficit. Through a broad schedule of witnesses, the hearings could bring together a wide range of organizations concerned about the budget. By having such breadth the Citizens Budget Hearings could attract media attention, thus impacting public opinion and congressional opinion. If these hearings could be held quickly, we could counter the momentum toward congressional acceptance of the budget summit agreement.

Here is a rough outline of how Citizens Budget Hearings could be organized. These ideas should be considered a proposal subject to

development and refinement by participating organizations.

Sponsors: Religious organizations, both "official" and "voluntary"

Dates: 2 weeks, Monday-Friday: May 1-5 and 8-13

Time: 3 hours/day: 9-12 or 9:30-12:30 or 10:00-1:00

Place: Possibly Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

Topics: 1st week: Human Needs and the Domestic Budget

2nd week: Defense Needs, Military Budget, Taxes,

Summation

Hearing panels:

3 to 5 persons each day

A single presiding hearing officer for all hearings

2 to 4 rotating hearing officers

Denominational leaders (prelates, board chairs,  
executives)

Heads of voluntary religious organizations

Each day a balance of denominations, gender, race, ethnicity

Typical hearing schedule:

3 segments, 55 minutes each

30 minutes for witnesses' presentations

25 minutes for questions from panel

with 5 minute break between segments

2 segments, 85 minutes each

45-60 minutes for witnesses' presentations

25-40 minutes for questions from panel

with 10 minute break between segments

## POSSIBLE HEARING TOPICS

### **Week 1. Human Needs and the Domestic Budget**

1st Day      Children and Youth

2nd Day      Housing

Homelessness

Low-income housing

Affordable housing for moderate-income families

3rd Day      Food and Health

4th Day      Education

Head Start

Elementary and secondary

Higher education

5th Day      Cross-cutting perspectives

Neighborhood

Local government

State government

## **Week 2. Defense Needs, Military Budget, Taxes, Summation**

1st Day      Perspective on the Soviet Union (threat perception)

                 Internal changes

                 In Europe

                 In Third World

2nd Day      Military Leaders on Defense Needs

3rd Day      Scientists, Physicians on Defense Issues

4th Day      Taxes

5th Day      Summary Views from Religious Community

Note: For each day we would ask a particular group or groups to take responsibility for helping line up witnesses and if necessary pay travel costs to bring in witnesses from out of town.

### **Media**

Broad media coverage would be essential if the Citizens Budget Hearings are to have an impact.      The breadth of the hearings and the quality of the witnesses would provide

the foundation, but it would be necessary to make a lot of direct contact to gain newspaper, radio, and television coverage.

If funds were available, the hearings could be taped and edited into two or more one-hour units and made available to people on Capitol Hill and to community cable access stations. (Public Interest Video, for example, has this capacity.)



HOWARD W. HALLMAN

6508 Wilmett Road

Bethesda, MD 20817

(301) 897-3668

August se,

Bud Kanitz, Ira Shorr

Congratulations on pulling together the diverse groups to talk about the relationships between defense and domestic spending in the federal budget.

This is a matter I have been working on, among other ways by "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which I developed through Methodists United for Peace with Justice.

Among other accomplishments, the meeting offered some excellent ideas on how to achieve grassroots involvement in federal budget-making. I have studied, written citizen action guidebooks on, and taught citizen involvement in local budget-making from two perspectives: as part of the official process and when not invited. In both cases the essential ingredient is early involvement: at the time the bureaucracy is formulating the budget, long before the official budget is published. I have pondered how this could be translated into federal budget-making but haven't had a clear idea until your meeting.

After the meeting I had some thoughts on how these elements might be put together. They are in the form of the enclosed outline notes, which I want to share with you as you consider how to follow through.

In summary, I believe that we should focus on one major product and two processes which would come to fruition in January and February 1990, as follows:

A Citizens' Budget, to be published about a week after President Bush's FY 1991 Budget.

A major media campaign at the time of release.

Widespread grassroots visits to members of Congress during the February recess to talk about the Citizens' Budget. This would be followed by intensive grassroots and Washington lobbying as Congress considers and adopts the Budget Resolution.

My outline suggests steps necessary to take between now and January to be able to produce a Citizens' Budget and to lobby for its acceptance.

## A Schedule for Producing and Lobbying for a Citizens' Budget

Month	In Washington	At Grassroots
May 1989	Work out structure and process.	Identify grassroots networks and devise outreach strategy.
June	Organize "Citizens' Budget Alliance" and working groups (see separate outline).	Enlist local participation. Identify geographic gaps and decided how to fill.
July	Organize working groups. Prepare for fall hearings.	Organize local groups (existing, new). Prepare for fall hearings.
August	Continue preparations.	Continue preparations.
September	Hearings, forums, public meetings by working groups (through mid-October).	Local hearings, forums, public meetings.
October	Complete hearings, etc.	Formulate ideas and submit to

	Working groups formulate budget proposals.	Washington.
November	Continue to formulate budget proposals.	Receive ideas of working groups and provide feedback.
December	Put together working group proposals and make balancing adjustments.  Prepare a summary for grassroots review.	Review budget summary and provide rapid feedback.
January 1990	Final agreement on Citizens' Budget.  Publish one week after President's Budget.  National media campaign.	Local media campaigns.
February	Begin lobbying Budget Committee, seek opportunity to testify.	Visit members of Congress during February recess.
March-	Lobby Budget Committees.	Lobby Budget Committees.

April    Work with members on an            Lobby members of Congress.  
          alternative budget or major amendments.

Howard Hallman

May 12, 1989

# A Citizens' Budget

## Budget Outline

Preface: Budget Sets National Priorities

Goals for the 1990s: An Overview

Based upon founding documents (Declaration, Preamble to Constitution).

Priorities for attention.

Budget by Major Functions. For each:

Goals for the 1990s

Major objectives for FY 1991 and also '92 and '93

Budget proposals by subfunctions

Economic Outlook

Revenue Needs

**Major Functions** (a working group for each, if possible; priority for first 5)

National defense and international affairs.

Housing, neighborhoods, community and regional development

Education, training, employment

Human services and income security (social services, health, food, medicare, medicaid, social security, other income security, veterans)

Economic outlook and revenues

Science, space, and technology

Energy, natural resources, and environment

Agriculture, commerce, and transportation

Justice and general government

**Other working groups**

Grassroots relationships

Special panels on cross-cutting issues, such as

Poverty

Drugs

Howard Hallman

May 12, 1989

## Citizens' Budget Alliance

**Membership:** committed to the Alliance's basic orientation

### Domestic

Concern for responding to urgent human needs.

Opening opportunities for full participation of all people in the economy.

Prepare individuals and nation for the 21st century.

### International

Sufficient defense expenditures for actual national security needs of the 1990s, eliminating excessive and wasteful military spending.

Constructive approach to less developed nations with emphasis upon technical and economic assistance, not military intervention.

Build strong foundation for U.S. participation in world economy.

### Revenue

Provide for our generation taking responsibility for its own expenditures without piling up huge debts for future generations.

Revenue measures that are progressive, that is, based upon ability to pay.

### Assembly

Representatives of national organizations and grassroots coalitions (local, district, state) which accept basic orientation.

**Commission** (or steering committee, board of directors, council)

Chairs of functional working groups

At-large: as many from national organizations as number of chairs

as many from grassroots organizations as number of chairs

Officers chosen from at-large members

### **Staffing**

Each working group supported by volunteers and donated services

Minimal staffing for Commission and Assembly

Coordinator

Assistants for:

Working group liaison

Grassroots liaison

Publications, media liaison

Secretariat

Howard Hallman

May 12, 1989

March 22, 1989

Mr. Robert S. McIntyre, Director  
Citizens for Tax Justice  
1311 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

I want to share with you the last issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf, which focuses on the federal budget. On page 7 we mention your organization as a source of information.

We are following up with the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating among United Methodist leaders to gain their signatures. We intend to release it publicly after the Easter recess.

You will note that in the Call we propose that, "as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay." Your Inequality & The Federal Budget Deficit is an excellent background piece on this issue. In addition, I would like to get from you more information on specific dollar amounts that could be raised by specific tax reforms and rate increases. I'll call you the week of March 27

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

My grandson, Matthew, will be one year old this week. I've been thinking about his future and the kind of world we are providing for him. And I've been thinking about the proposed federal budget Congress is considering, and I worry about Matthew and his generation.

The proposed budget has money to fight war in space and for many more nuclear weapons, more long-range missiles to attack the Soviet Union. But we have too many nuclear weapons already.

This kind of excessive military spending takes money away from child nutrition, from Head Start, from education, from job training for unemployed youth. Excessive military spending robs my grandson, Matthew, and his generation.

So I'm going to send a picture of Matthew to President Bush and to members of Congress and say, "For Matthew's sake, let's cut out excessive military spending and use the money for true human needs."

Please join me and send a picture a child to those folks in Washington and tell them to change the budget to look out for the needs of our children and youth.

March 2, 1989

Dr. Edward Bauman  
Foundry United Methodist Church  
1500 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ed:

Methodists United for Peace with Justice is making the federal budget a major focus of our activities. The next issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf (copy enclosed), is dedicated entirely to federal budget issues, including how to curb the deficit, military and domestic priorities, and the need for revenue increases. We show that President Bush's budget has a double standard by increasing military spending above current appropriations to account for inflation while calling for spending cuts in numerous human need programs. Moreover, the military budget would augment the unwise Star Wars program and produce many more strategic nuclear weapons just as we have a chance to cut the supply in half through negotiations with the Soviet Union.

We believe that the religious community in the United States should respond. Accordingly, we have drafted the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." We ask you to be an initial signer. We are making the same request to Rev. Joshua Hutchins, to the United Methodist bishops on our National Advisory Committee (Bishops Kelly, May, Minnick, Warman, and Yeakel), and to Bishops Bashore and Dale White, who hold key leadership positions in the Council of Bishops. If possible, we would like to hear from you by Monday, March 13. You or an assistant can call me at 897-3668, though we would like to receive confirmation in writing.

With these initial signers in hand we will then circulate the "Call" to all United Methodist bishops, UM conference chairs of church and society, members of certain UM general boards, our entire National Advisory Committee, our membership, and to leaders of other denominations within the Methodist tradition. And we are exploring opportunities to reach out to national and area leaders in other religious denominations. We intend to complete this process in time for release on or about April 3, when Congress is returning after the Easter recess.

Shortly thereafter Congress must make some fundamental budgetary decisions. We will follow up the "Call" with grassroots mobilization to influence Congress.

We hope that you will join us in this effort to bring about a federal budget that is more justice and more fully peace-oriented.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Chair, Issues Committee

March 3, 1989

The Rev. Joshua Hutchins, Jr.  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
928 11th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Josh:

Methodists United for Peace with Justice is making the federal budget a major focus of our activities. The next issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf (copy enclosed), is dedicated entirely to federal budget issues, including how to curb the deficit, military and domestic priorities, and the need for revenue increases. We show that President Bush's budget has a double standard by increasing military spending above current appropriations to account for inflation while calling for spending cuts in numerous human need programs. Moreover, the military budget would augment the unwise Star Wars program and produce many more strategic nuclear weapons just as we have a chance to cut the supply in half through negotiations with the Soviet Union.

We believe that the religious community in the United States should respond. Accordingly, we have drafted the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." We ask you to be an initial signer. We are making the same request to Dr. Edward Bauman as the other cochair of our National Committee, to the United Methodist bishops on our National Committee (Bishops Kelly, May, Minnick, Warman, and Yeakel) and to Bishops Bashore and Dale White because of their leadership positions in the Council of Bishops. If possible, we would like to hear from you by Monday, March 13. You or an assistant can call me at (301) 897-3668, though we would also like to receive confirmation in writing.

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We hope that you will join us in this effort to bring about a federal budget that is more just and more fully peace-oriented.

Sincerely yours,

Sherman W. Harris  
Chair, Steering Committee

March 7, 1989

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Gumbleton  
Archdiocese of Detroit  
1234 Washington Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Bishop Gumbleton:

These days I am functioning as issues chair of Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy. We organized two years ago to work for implementation of policy recommendations made by the United Methodist bishops in In Defense of Creation. As we go about our work, we would like to work with people in the U.S. Catholic community who share our concern. I would like your advice on how this might be best achieved.

Among other issues, we are making the federal budget a major focus of our activities because many crucial decisions come to focus in the budget. The next issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf (copy enclosed), is dedicated entirely to federal budget issues, including how to curb the deficit, military and domestic priorities, and the need for revenue increases. We show that President Bush's budget has a double standard by increasing military spending above current appropriations to account for inflation while calling for spending cuts in numerous human need programs. Moreover, the military budget would augment the unwise Star Wars program and produce many more strategic nuclear weapons just as we have a chance to cut the supply in half through negotiations with the Soviet Union.

As a next step we have drafted the enclosed "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." It has three main points:

(1) cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars funding and placing two year moratorium on funding of production of new strategic nuclear weapons, (2) reassignment of savings from the military budget to programs responding to urgent human needs, and (3) increasing taxes, based upon ability to pay, to achieve deficit reduction.

We are in the process of asking seven United Methodist bishops and the co-chairs of our National Committee to be initial signers. Then we will circulate the "Call" to all United Methodist bishops, to church and society chairs of the 73 United Methodist annual conferences around the country, to other United Methodist leaders, and to leaders of other denominations within the Methodist tradition (such as AME Zion, etc.). We intend to complete this process in time for public release of the "Call" on or about April 3, when Congress is returning after the Easter recess. Shortly thereafter Congress must make some fundamental budgetary decisions. We will follow up the "Call" with grassroots mobilization to influence Congress.

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Gumbleton  
March 7, 1989

Page two.

I believe that there is a real opportunity to turn around the nuclear arms race in this session of Congress. The budget and follow-up appropriation measures are where this can be done. What is required is mobilization of the religious community along with natural and some "unexpected" allies. The peace movement is of course the most natural ally. This brings in concerned scientists and physicians. Although many persons have pointed out that people and organizations concerned with human needs (depicted as a concern for social and economic justice) are potential allies for reducing military expenditures, not a lot of coalition work between "peace" and "justice" organizations have occurred (except where they are combined in one organization, such as the U.S. Catholic conference). But this year the budget crisis offers an excellent opportunity to form such an alliance: cutting back military spending to achieve peace objectives, reassigning the money to domestic programs to achieve justice objectives, and raising additional revenue on an ability to pay basis. An "unexpected" ally could be national associations of local and state officials, for they are seeing the devastating effects of excessive military spending and drastic cutback in federal funding of programs responding human need. And it might also be possible to mobilize some progressive business support for these objectives because some business leaders are realizing that absorption of so much of U.S. scientific talent and research funds into military programs is hurting the United States in the world economy.

I believe that United Methodists and Roman Catholics could be key elements in bringing about such a broad coalition. The bishops of both denominations have issued strong statements about the need for nuclear disarmament and for curtailing Star Wars initiatives. The Catholic bishops have followed through on economic justice issues. Both denominations have strong grassroots networks which could be mobilized to press for substantial changes in the federal budget. Together they could form a core that could encompass other religious denominations in a widening circle and could build bridges between peace and justice interests.

Within the United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops is a position to make policy statements, but it lacks its own staff for follow through. The General Board of Church and Society is the designated official advocacy agency, but currently it is not active on nuclear disarmament and is not now particularly oriented toward lobbying, either directly or through grassroots mobilization. Our association, Methodists United for Peace with Justice, is an unofficial organization but has support of some key bishops and is in touch with leaders of United Methodist annual conference around the nations. That enables us to play a catalytic role. That's what we are trying to do with the

"Call for Shift in Budget Priorities."

This gets me back to my original question on how we can work closely with Catholic leaders and organizations. I would like to call you in the near future to discuss this with you.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Chair, Issues Committee

March 7, 1989

Mr. John Carr  
Dept. of Social Development and World Peace  
U. S. Catholic Conference  
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear John:

These days I am functioning as issues chair of Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy. We organized two years ago to work for implementation of policy recommendations made by the United Methodist bishops in In Defense of Creation. As we go about our work, we would like to work with people in the U.S. Catholic community who share our concern. I would like to talk to you in the near future on how this might be best achieved.

Among other issues, we are making the federal budget a major focus of our activities because many crucial decisions come to focus in the budget. The next issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf (copy enclosed), is dedicated entirely to federal budget issues, including how to curb the deficit, military and domestic priorities, and the need for revenue increases. We show that President Bush's budget has a double standard by increasing military spending above current appropriations to account for inflation while calling for spending cuts in numerous human need programs. Moreover, the military budget would augment the unwise Star Wars program and produce many more strategic nuclear weapons just as we have a chance to cut the supply in half through negotiations with the Soviet Union.

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We are in the process of asking seven United Methodist bishops and the co-chairs of our National Committee to be initial signers. Then we will circulate the "Call" to all United Methodist bishops, to church and society chairs of the 73 United Methodist annual conferences around the country, to other United Methodist leaders, and to leaders of other denominations within the Methodist tradition (such as AME Zion, etc.). We intend to complete this process in time for public release of the "Call" on or about April 3, when Congress is returning after the Easter recess. Shortly thereafter Congress must make some fundamental budgetary decisions. We will follow up the "Call" with grassroots mobilization to influence Congress.

Mr. John Carr  
March 7, 1989

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Within the United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops is a position to make policy statements, but it lacks its own staff for follow through. The General Board of Church and Society is the designated official advocacy agency, but currently it is not active on nuclear disarmament and is not now particularly oriented toward lobbying, either directly or through grassroots mobilization. Our association, Methodists United for Peace with Justice, is an unofficial organization but has support of some key bishops and is in touch with leaders of United Methodist annual conference around the nations. That enables us to play a catalytic role. That's what we are trying to do with the "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities."

This gets me back to the matter of how we can work closely with Catholic leaders and organizations. I would like to stop by your office to discuss this with you.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Telephone: 897-3668  
Chair, Issues Committee

March 7, 1989

Sr. Nancy Sylvester  
Network  
806 Rhode Island Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20018

Dear Nancy:

At a recent meeting of the Coalition on Human Needs I mentioned to you that I am trying to mobilize Methodists on federal budget issues. Enclosed are two documents written for this purpose. The first is our newsletter, Peace Leaf, and the second is a "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." We are now seeking signers for the "Call" -- United Methodist bishops, church and society chairs from the 73 annual conferences, and other United Methodist leaders. We want to release this call on or about April 3 when Congress returns after the April recess.

I believe that this year we have a real chance to bring about a shift in federal budget priorities. To do so will require mobilizing peace and justice organizations, religious and secular, in a strong coalition. I also believe that Methodists and Catholics could be a key because for both denominations the bishops have made strong statements and both have strong networks covering the entire nation.

I would like to get your advice on how we can forge strong links with Catholic organizations, both official and unofficial. We ourselves are an unofficial organization, which gives us flexibility, but we try to work closely with official United Methodist units and to stimulate them to act.

I'll give you a call in a few days.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

March 7, 1989

Ms. Holly Wells  
Choose Peace  
715 8th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Holly:

I want to share with you two items related to federal budget priorities. One is our latest issue of Peace Leaf and the other is a "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs."

For the latter we have started a process of seeking signers, including United Methodist bishops, annual conference chairs of church and society, other United Methodist leaders, and leaders from other Methodist denominations (such as AME Zion). We want to release the "Call" on or about April 3 when Congress returns from its Easter recess.

I'm trying to establish ties with Roman Catholics in this effort to impact the federal budget. Between them United Methodists and Catholics have strong episcopal statements and extensive networks covering the nation. They could form a core for mobilizing grassroots lobbying on budget issues.

Whether Catholics and persons from other religious denominations would want to sign the "Call" is an open matter. I'm not making it a top priority because reaching out to United Methodists is about as much as I can undertake at the moment.

When your executive committee meets in early April, perhaps it might take up the main points of the "Call": (1) cut the military budget by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two-year moratorium on production of new strategic nuclear weapons, (2) reassign funds saved from the military budget to urgent human needs, and (3) increase taxes, based on the ability to pay, to reduce the federal deficit.

Of your leadership I have sent the "Call" to Bishop Dale White and Bishop Gumbleton as part of my own outreach (and to others, too).

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-5551

August W. Bashore  
United Methodist Pittsburgh Area  
1204 Freedom Road  
Mars, PA 16046

Dear Bishop Bashore:

Here is the printed version of our "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." We thank you for being an initial signers.

The other initial signers are listed on page two.

We have sent this Call to all active United Methodist bishops in the U.S., conference chairs of church and society, conference peace with justice coordinators, members of the General Board of Church and Society, and to our own National Committee. We will reach out to some other United Methodist leaders. And we are going to use the Call as an opportunity to make contact with leadership in other denominations in

the Methodist tradition beyond the United Methodist Church. This has been our intent from the beginning, which is why we chose the name "Methodists United."

We'll keep you informed about the outcome of our signature campaign.

Cordially yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Issues Chair

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-5551

August

Coalition on Human Needs  
1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Susan:

Enclosed is "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are circulating to the 49 active United Methodist bishops in the United States and leaders in the 73 United Methodist conferences, requesting that they become signers. We intend to release it the week of April 3.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

March 20, 1989

Mr. Robert Lear, News Director  
United Methodist News Service  
100 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Bob:

I would like to share with you a "Call" we are now circulating and ask your advice on how to get this into the secular press.

It is "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs." Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders, including the chairs of the conference boards of church and society (see sample letter). If they want to become signers, we are providing signature form and return envelope. We ask them to get this back to us by March 29.

We would like to release the Call with the signers' names the week of April 3, after Congress returns from recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution. I would appreciate your suggestions on how to get news coverage.

I'll call you in a few days. Or if you want to call me, my number is 897-3668.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

March 20, 1989

Ms. Chiquita Smith  
Secretary for Community Action  
United Methodist Women's Division  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115

Dear Ms. Smith:

I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating. It calls for a cut in military spending, a increase for programs responding to human needs, and tax increases to help reduce the federal deficit, based upon ability to pay.

Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders, including the chairs of the conference boards of church and society, and have asked them to become signers.

Do you think that some leaders of United Methodist Women would be interested in signing this Call? I believe that the essential message is quite pertinent to the Campaign for Children because there will never be enough resources to pay the costs of programs serving children and their families unless there are cuts in the military budget and tax increases. If you think that some UMW leaders would sign this call, I would like your advice on how best to get this done.

Time is short because we would like to release the Call with the signers' names the week of April 3, after Congress returns from recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution. But if we some key UMW leaders would add their names to the Call, it could strengthen its impact.

I'll call you in a few days to discuss this. Or if you want to call me, my number is 897-3668.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 20, 1989

Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett  
United Methodist General Board  
of Church and Society  
100 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Thom:

I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating. It calls for a cut in military spending, an increase for programs responding to human needs, and tax increases to help reduce the federal deficit, based upon ability to pay.

Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders around the country and have asked them to become signers. We intend to release the Call with the signers' names the week of April 3, after Congress returns from recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution.

I'm aware that your Board meets soon thereafter. I would be great if they would endorse this call -- or at least take some kind of action to go record for these kinds of priorities.

We are still hoping that we can talk to you to discuss our mutual interests. Perhaps this Call would be a good place to start. Would you have some time in the next couple of weeks to meet with us? I'll call you in a couple of days to find out. Or if you want to call me, my number is 897-3668.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 20, 1989

Rev. Donna MortonStout  
United Methodist General Board  
of Church and Society  
100 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Donna:

I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating. It calls for a cut in military spending, an increase for programs responding to human needs, and tax increases to help reduce the federal deficit, based upon ability to pay.

Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders around the country and have asked them to become signers. We intend to release the Call with the signers' names the week of April 3, after Congress returns from recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 21, 1989

Mr. Alan Beals, Executive Director  
National League of Cities  
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Alan:

These days I'm playing a leadership role in Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy that formed two years ago to support policy recommendations of the United Methodist Council of Bishops contained in their foundation document on the nuclear crisis, In Defense of Creation. At the moment we are giving particular attention to the federal budget because many policy decisions this year will be made in that context.

We are now circulating to Methodist leaders the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". As initial signers we have six United Methodist bishop and the leadership of our own National Committee and Steering Committee.

We are asking other Methodist leaders around the country to sign, looking for public release the week of April 3. The Call makes three main points:

- (1) Cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons,
- (2) Use savings from military reductions for programs responding to urgent human needs, and
- (3) Close tax loopholes and raise income rates in the upper brackets to help reduce the deficit.

My impression is that the National League of Cities has policies that point in the same direction, although perhaps not with identical specifics. So do other associations of local and state officials. A number of groups allied with the Coalition on Human Needs favor protecting the funding of domestic human needs programs. Peace and arms control organizations which come together as the Monday Lobby favor reduction of military spending. A number of religious organizations have objectives similar to ours. Although there is communication among some of these organizations and coalitions, I believe that we could more effectively assert ourselves in a united effort to make an impact on federal budget decisions.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks I would like to stop by and talk to you to learn more about the federal budget recommendations of the National League of Cities and to explore how we can work together for common objectives. I'll give you a call to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Telephone: 897-3668

March 21, 1989

Mr. Thomas Cochran, Executive Director  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
1620 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Tom:

These days I'm playing a leadership role in Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy that formed two years ago to support policy recommendations of the United Methodist Council of Bishops contained in their foundation document on the nuclear crisis, In Defense of Creation. At the moment we are giving particular attention to the federal budget because many policy decisions this year will be made in that context.

We are now circulating to Methodist leaders the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". As initial signers we have six United Methodist bishop and the leadership of our own National Committee and Steering Committee.

We are asking other Methodist leaders around the country to sign, looking for public release the week of April 3. The Call makes three main points:

- (1) Cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons,
- (2) Use savings from military reductions for programs responding to urgent human needs, and
- (3) Close tax loopholes and raise income rates in the upper brackets to help reduce the deficit.

My impression is that the U.S. Conference of Mayors has policies that point in the same direction, although perhaps not with identical specifics. So do other associations of local and state officials. A number of groups allied with the Coalition on Human Needs favor protecting the funding of domestic human needs programs. Peace and arms control organizations which come together as the Monday Lobby favor reduction of military spending. A number of religious organizations have objectives similar to ours. Although there is communication among some of these organizations and coalitions, I believe that we could more effectively assert ourselves in a united effort to make an impact on federal budget decisions.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks I would like to stop by and talk to you to learn more about the federal budget recommendations of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and to explore how we can work together for common objectives. I'll give you a call to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Telephone: 897-3668

March 21, 1989

Mr. John C. Thomas, Executive Director  
National Association of Counties  
440 First Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear John:

These days I'm playing a leadership role in Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy that formed two years ago to support policy recommendations of the United Methodist Council of Bishops contained in their foundation document on the nuclear crisis, In Defense of Creation. At the moment we are giving particular attention to the federal budget because many policy decisions this year will be made in that context.

We are now circulating to Methodist leaders the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". As initial signers we have six United Methodist bishop and the leadership of our own National Committee and Steering Committee.

We are asking other Methodist leaders around the country to sign, looking for public release the week of April 3. The Call makes three main points:

- (1) Cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons,
- (2) Use savings from military reductions for programs responding to urgent human needs, and
- (3) Close tax loopholes and raise income rates in the upper brackets to help reduce the deficit.

My impression is that the National Association of Counties may have policies that point in the same direction, although perhaps not with identical specifics. So do other associations of local and state officials. A number of groups allied with the Coalition on Human Needs favor protecting the funding of domestic human needs programs. Peace and arms control organizations which come together as the Monday Lobby favor reduction of military spending. A number of religious organizations have objectives similar to ours. Although there is communication among some of these organizations and coalitions, I believe that we could more effectively assert ourselves in a united effort to impact federal budget decisions.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks I would like to stop by and talk to you to learn more about the federal budget recommendations of the National Association of Counties and to explore how we can work together for common objectives. I'll give you a call to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Telephone: 897-3668

March 21, 1989

Mr. James Martin, Legislative Counsel  
National Governors' Association  
444 North Capital Street, NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Martin:

Two years ago Methodists United for Peace with Justice formed as an association of laity and clergy to support policy recommendations of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, as contained in their foundation document on the nuclear crisis, In Defense of Creation. We are now giving particular attention to the federal budget because many policy decisions this year will be made in that context. I am writing to you because we may have some mutual interests.

We are now circulating to Methodist leaders the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". As initial signers we have six United Methodist bishop and the leadership of our own National Committee and Steering Committee.

We are asking other Methodist leaders around the country to sign, looking for public release the week of April 3. The Call makes three main points:

- (1) Cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons,
- (2) Use savings from military reductions for programs responding to urgent human needs, and
- (3) Close tax loopholes and raise income rates in the upper brackets to help reduce the deficit.

My impression is that the National Governors' Association may have policies that point in the same direction, although perhaps not with identical specifics. So do other associations of local and state officials. A number of groups allied with the Coalition on Human Needs favor protecting the funding of domestic human needs programs. Peace and arms control organizations which come together as the Monday Lobby favor reduction of military spending. A number of religious organizations have objectives similar to ours. Although there is communication among some of these organizations and coalitions, I believe that we could more effectively assert ourselves in a united effort to impact federal budget decisions.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks I would like to stop by and talk to you to learn more about the federal budget recommendations of the National Governors' Association and to explore how we can work together for common objectives. I'll give you a call to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Telephone: 897-3668

March 21, 1989

Mr. Carl Tubbesing  
Director of State-Federal Relations  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
444 North Capital Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Tubbesing:

Two years ago Methodists United for Peace with Justice formed as an association of laity and clergy to support policy recommendations of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, as contained in their foundation document on the nuclear crisis, In Defense of Creation. We are now giving particular attention to the federal budget because many policy decisions this year will be made in that context. I am writing to you because we may have some mutual interests.

We are now circulating to Methodist leaders the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". As initial signers we have six United Methodist bishop and the leadership of our own National Committee and Steering Committee.

We are asking other Methodist leaders around the country to sign, looking for public release the week of April 3. The Call makes three main points:

- (1) Cut military spending by curtailing Star Wars and establishing a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons,
- (2) Use savings from military reductions for programs responding to urgent human needs, and
- (3) Close tax loopholes and raise income rates in the upper brackets to help reduce the deficit.

My impression is that the National Conference of State Legislatures may have policies that point in the same direction, although perhaps not with identical specifics. So do other associations of local and state officials. A number of groups allied with the Coalition on Human Needs favor protecting the funding of domestic human needs programs. Peace and arms control organizations which come together as the Monday Lobby favor reduction of military spending. A number of religious organizations have objectives similar to ours. Although there is communication among some of these organizations and coalitions, I believe that we could more effectively assert ourselves in a united effort to impact federal budget decisions.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks I would like to stop by and talk to you to learn more about the federal budget recommendations of the National Governors' Association and to explore how we can work together for common objectives. I'll give you a call to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Telephone: 897-3668

March 22, 1989

Mr. Robert Greenstein  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Bob:

I want to share with you the last issue of our newsletter, *Peace Leaf*, which focuses on the federal budget. On page 7 we mention your organization as a source of information.

Information received from your Center was indispensable to us in preparation of this newsletter. We quote you at least once, and your findings provided guidance to us in our analysis and writing.

We are following up with the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating among United Methodist leaders to gain their signatures. We intend to release it publicly after the Easter recess.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 22, 1989

Mr. Gordon Adams  
Defense Budget Project  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Gordon:

I want to share with you the last issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf, which focuses on the federal budget. On page 7 we mention your organization as a source of information.

Information received from the Defense Budget Project was indispensable to us in preparation of this newsletter. We quote you at least once, and your findings provided guidance to us in our analysis and writing.

We are following up with the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating among United Methodist leaders to gain their signatures. We intend to release it publicly after the Easter recess.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 22, 1989

Captain James T. Bush  
Center for Defense Informatin  
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Jim:

I want to share with you the last issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf, which focuses on the federal budget. On page 7 we mention your organization as a source of information.

We are following up with the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating among United Methodist leaders to gain their signatures. We intend to release it publicly after the Easter recess.

You will note that in the Call we propose sharply curtailing Star Wars, a two year moratorium on new strategic weapons, and "cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value." I would like to talk to you, or some else at the Center for Defense Information, to get more information related to the last point. I'll call you the week of March 27

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 22, 1989

Ms. Marian Wright Edelman, President  
Children's Defense Fund  
122 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Marian:

I want to share with you the last issue of our newsletter, *Peace Leaf*, which focuses on the federal budget. On page 7 we mention your organization as a source of information.

We are following up with the enclosed "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are now circulating among United Methodist leaders to gain their signatures. We intend to release it publicly after the Easter recess.

You will note that in the Call we take a threefold approach: (1) cut military spending, (2) use the savings for programs meeting urgent human needs, and (3) reducing the federal deficit by revenue increases, specifically closing tax loopholes and increasing income tax rates in the upper brackets. If this combined approach is to be accepted, I believe that organizations interested mainly in one aspect (such as domestic programs) should support other aspects as well (defense cuts and tax increases). I would urge you to consider such an approach for the Children's Defense Fund.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 23, 1989

Ms. Else M. Adjali  
Executive Secretary for UN/International Affairs  
United Methodist Women's Division  
777 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Adjali:

At the suggestion of Joyce Hamlin, I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are circulating. It calls for a cut in military spending, increases for programs responding to human needs, and tax increases to help reduce the federal deficit, based upon ability to pay.

Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders, including the chairs of the conference boards of church and society, and have asked them to become signers.

I asked Joyce whether we could get some leaders of United Methodist Women to sign this Call. She says it relates to the work she is doing on the Quality of Life Budget developed by the Congressional Black Caucus, but she doesn't have time to make contact with any UMW leaders, which is why she referred me to you. If you think that some UMW leaders would sign this call, I would like your advice on how best to get this done.

I have also sent the Call to Chiquita Smith because we are supporting the Campaign for Children. We know that there will never be enough resources to pay the costs of programs serving children and their families unless there are cuts in the military budget and tax increases.

Time is short because we would like to release the Call with the signers' names the week of April 3, after Congress returns from recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution. If some key UMW leaders would add their names to the Call, it could strengthen its impact.

I'll call you early in the week to discuss this with you. Or if you want to call me, my number is (301) 897-3668.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 23, 1989

Sister Mary Lou Kownacki  
National Coordinator  
Pax Christi USA  
348 East 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16503

Dear Sister Mary Lou:

You may remember that I was in touch with you a couple of years ago when I developed a "Citizens Declaration for Nuclear Disarmament by the Year 2000." Now I am involved with Methodists United for Peace with Justice, an association of laity and clergy working to implement policy recommendations contained in the United Methodist bishops statement on nuclear weapons.

I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we are circulating. It calls for a cut in military spending, increases for programs responding to human needs, and tax increases to help reduce the federal deficit, based upon ability to pay. Initial signers are six United Methodist bishops, the co-chairs of our National Committee, and three officers of our Steering Committee. We have sent it to the other bishops and to other United Methodist leaders, including the chairs of the conference boards of church and society, and have asked them to become signers. We intend to release the Call with the signers' names sometime after April 3 when Congress returns from the Easter recess and before the Budget Committees have completed marking up the budget resolution.

As we follow through on this Call, we want to work with others who share this concern. I asked Bishop Gumbleton who might be our best contact within the Catholic Church, and he suggested that I get in touch with you. Therefore, the week of April 27 I will give you a call to discuss it with you.

Sincerely yours,

Telephone: (301) 897-3668    Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

March 31, 1989

Mr. Thomas Schellabarger  
U.S. Catholic Conference  
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Tom:

As I mentioned on the phone, we are now circulating "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs" (enclosed) within United Methodist circles for signatures. We are seeking a good cross-section of bishops, conference chairs of church and society, and conference peace with justice coordinators from around the country. We'll publicly release the call the week of April 10 and then use it as a basis for mobilizing United Methodist on budget issues. Previously we published an issue of our newsletter, Peace Leaf, on the federal budget. A copy is enclosed.

From our conversation it's obvious that we share many common interests with you on federal budget issues. I look forward to seeing the letter you are sending to the budget committees and to working cooperatively with you.

Sincerely yours,

Telephone: 897-3668 Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

April 12, 1989

The Honorable James R. Sasser  
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee  
363 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 200510

Dear Senator Sasser:

We would like to present to you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". It is signed by more than 100 United Methodist leaders from all sections of the United States, including 28 bishops (a majority of our Council of Bishops).

This Call reflects our conviction that the federal budget should promote both justice and peace. It contains three recommendations:

First, we believe that the military budget for FY 1990 should be reduced by (a) sharply curtailing expenditures for development, testing, and production of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) establishing a two year moratorium on the production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, and (c) cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.

Second, savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, education of children and youth from all segments of society, employment and training opportunities for youth and adults, adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. And increase resources should be directed toward assisting Third World nations to achieve positive social and economic development.

Third, as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay.

We offer this last recommendation out of a belief that our generation should pay our own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances. Indeed, our other two recommendations also relate to our concern for the children of America. We must pay attention to their needs for food, shelter, family nurture, education, and preparation for future jobs. There could be no better public investment. To make this investment, we should eliminate excessive military spending at a time when the nation is not at war and Cold War tensions have receded. We hope that in your budget considerations you will adopt the same priorities.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Issues Chair

April 12, 1989

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
339 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

We would like to present to you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". It is signed by more than 100 United Methodist leaders from all sections of the United States, including 28 bishops (a majority of our Council of Bishops).

This Call reflects our conviction that the federal budget should promote both justice and peace. It contains three recommendations:

First, we believe that the military budget for FY 1990 should be reduced by (a) sharply curtailing expenditures for development, testing, and production of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) establishing a two year moratorium on the production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, and (c) cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.

Second, savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, education of children and youth from all segments of society, employment and training opportunities for youth and adults, adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. And increased resources should be directed toward assisting Third World nations to achieve positive social and economic development.

Third, as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay.

We offer this last recommendation out of a belief that our generation should pay our own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances.

Indeed, our other two recommendations also relate to our concern for the children of America. We must pay attention to their needs for food, shelter, family nurture, education, and preparation for future jobs. There could be no better public investment.

To make this investment, we should eliminate excessive military spending at a time when the nation is not at war and Cold War tensions have receded. We hope that in your budget considerations you will adopt the same priorities.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Issues Chair

April 14, 1989

Dear Signer of "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities":

We thank you for signing "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". Enclosed is a listing of the 114 United Methodist leaders from throughout the United States who have signed the Call. We have sent this Call to President Bush and to all members of the Senate and House Budget Committees. With an accompanying news release, we have sent it to news media, including United Methodist national and conference publications.

Our Call is coming out at an appropriate time, for the Budget Summit between congressional leadership and representatives of the Bush Administration has come up with a budget agreement which reflects the old priorities: continued high military spending, cuts in vital domestic programs, and unwillingness to face the need for revenue increases sufficient to reduce the federal deficit. Accordingly it is very important that we move into action.

For our part we have published the enclosed Peace/Justice Alert, which we are sending to our members and to United Methodists holding key conference, district, and local church positions. Because of your concern for budget priorities, we suggest several possible actions you yourself might undertake.

We ask you to make copies of the Call and send it to members of Congress from your state and district. In your transmittal letter, you can offer your own views on budget priorities. You might draw on the suggestion of the Peace/ Justice Alert and send a picture of a child (your own, a grandchild, a niece or nephew, a child from your church or neighborhood). Tell something about the child and how you are concerned about her or his future. In your letter, we ask you to stress the three main points of the Call: reduce excessive military spending, use the savings on programs serving urgent human needs, and increase revenues to deal with the enormous federal deficit.

We also ask you to post the Peace/Justice Alert, make copies and send to others, and undertake efforts to get others to sign it: after church, in Sunday School classes, at local church committee meetings, at district clergy meetings, at bishop's cabinet meetings. The Alert offers ideas on how to do this.

The next four weeks are a crucial time to influence federal budget decisions. We will be influential only if we generate strong citizen interest and make our views known to Congress and President Bush. In advance we thank you for the actions you will be taking.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

Methodists United  
for Peace with Justice

421 Seward Square, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 546-5551

Augustin

United Methodist Women's Division

100 Maryland Avenue, NE

Washington, DC 20002

Dear Joyce:

Here is "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs" with the 114 signers listed. Thanks for your help in getting the two UMW leaders.

Also attached is our Peace/Justice Alert, which suggests specific actions on the federal budget. If you would like copies to send to United Methodist Women, please let me know. Or, you may want to borrow our idea of "send a child's picture". But if you do, I hope that you will suggest a consistent message with three elements: cut excessive military spending, use the savings for programs responding to urgent human

needs, and revenue increases to reduce the enormous federal deficit.

Sincerely yours,

Telephone: 897-3668 Howard W. Hallman

Issues Chair

April 15, 1989

The Honorable George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to present to you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". It is signed by more than 100 United Methodist leaders from all sections of the United States, including 28 bishops (a majority of our Council of Bishops).

This Call reflects our conviction that the federal budget should promote both justice and peace. It contains three recommendations:

First, we believe that the military budget for FY 1990 should be reduced by (a) sharply curtailing expenditures for development, testing, and production of all weapons that could carry war into outer space, (b) establishing a two year moratorium on the production of any more strategic nuclear weapons, and (c) cutting back on excessive funding for other military hardware, especially weapon systems with high costs and questionable value.

Second, savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs

responding to urgent human needs. Within the United States special attention should be given to the needs of children in poor families and their parents, education of children and youth from all segments of society, employment and training opportunities for youth and adults, adequate health care for all, and the needs of the homeless. And increased resources should be directed toward assisting Third World nations achieve positive social and economic development.

Third, as a means of reducing the huge federal deficit, significant revenue increases should occur through closing tax loopholes and through income tax rate increases, based upon the ability to pay. We offer this last recommendation out of a belief that our generation should pay our own way instead of forcing our children and grandchildren to pay for our extravagances.

We developed this "Call for Shift in Budget Priorities" during the past month while your representatives were conferring with congressional leaders in the "Budget Summit." Now that those meetings are completed and the results announced, we conclude that the Budget Summit agreement is inadequate and does not represent the true needs of the country. It continues the practice of making programs serving human needs bear the brunt of deficit reduction. The so-called defense budget cut is mostly a reduction of the increases you asked for earlier, and it apparently does not curtail efforts to extend war into space and build more strategic nuclear weapons. And the Budget Summit agreement does not face the budget deficit head-on by recommending income tax rate increases for upper tax brackets and closing tax loopholes. Accordingly, we will be opposing this

agreement when it comes before Congress and will be pressing for alternatives along the lines of our Call.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

Issues Chair

April 20, 1989

Dear Bishop:

We are sending you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs" with a list of signers. This Call has gone to President Bush and to all members of the Senate and House Budget Committees. It has been released to the press and sent to United Methodist national and conference publications.

You will note that many of your colleagues on the United Methodist Council of Bishops signed the call. We were unable to reach most of the others because they were traveling or were in the midst of cabinet meetings (this being appointment season). A few declined to sign. The Call is still open to other signers if you would like your name added.

Our Call for Shift in Budget Priorities is coming out at an appropriate time, for the Budget Summit between congressional leadership and representatives of the Bush Administration has come up with a budget agreement which reflects the old priorities: continued high military spending, cuts in vital domestic programs, and unwillingness to face the need for revenue increases sufficient to reduce the federal deficit. Accordingly it is very important that we move into action.

Suggestions on what to do are contained in the enclosed Peace/ Justice Alert, which we have sent to our members and to United Methodists holding key conference, district, and local church positions. We urge you to look it over and to consider actions you might take as a United Methodist leader, both directly in contacting the president and members of Congress and through annual conference units.

In writing to public officials, you might draw on the suggestion of the Peace/ Justice Alert and send a picture of a child (your own, a grandchild, a niece or nephew, a child from your church or neighborhood). Tell something about the child and how you are concerned about her or his future. In your letter, we ask you to stress the three main points of the Call: reduce excessive military spending, use the savings on programs serving urgent human needs, and increase revenues to deal with the enormous federal deficit.

We are at a turning point in international affairs and in determination of national priorities. Therefore, it is essential that our perspective be offered to public policy makers at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

HOWARD W. HALLMAN

6508 Wilmett Road

Bethesda, MD 20817

(301) 897-3668

August owan

3251-C Sutton Place, NW

Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Rowan:

I'm writing to you on the first birthday of my first grandson, Matthew (shown here when he was six months old). This occasion makes me think of his future: taking a teen job in 2004, perhaps finishing graduate school in 2012, working in the labor force and paying a wage-earner's taxes until into the 2050's.

When I look ahead this way, I don't like what I see because of the irresponsibility of our own generation.

We're piling up this enormous federal debt, which mortgages the future of Matthew and his generation.

Yet, the recent "bipartisan" budget agreement between the White House and Congress deceitfully avoids the

issue. This budget maintains excessively high military spending at a time of greatly improved international relations. It puts \$10 to 20 billion in new strategic weapons and the Star Wars Program (which most honest people know is a fraud) when we could have a 50 percent reduction agreement with the Soviet Union. This and other military waste robs money from education, job training, health, housing, and other beneficial programs ("theft" was what President Eisenhower called it in 1953). Yet, this budget compromise is greeted with either indifference or relief that the executive/congressional deadlock of the Reagan years isn't continuing.

I write to you with the request that you deal with this matter in your column. Somebody needs to challenge Congress and wake up the public about the enormous error of the budget compromise that seems to be sailing through Congress. Economists know the phoniness of the economic and tax projections. Numerous retired military officers and former Defense Department civilian officials know that many of the new weapon systems are unnecessary and of questionable military value. Teachers, child care workers, health professionals, neighborhood workers all know how inadequate are the resources available to meet human needs. Yet, these voices aren't being heard. We need somebody with the respect, visibility, and access to print that you have to tell the truth and to awaken us before another year goes by with refusal to face reality.

So I ask you to speak out on federal budget priorities and honesty in budget-making: for Matthew's sake, and for his generation.

Sincerely yours,

August

National Advisory Committee

I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs" with the signers we gathered before releasing it. The list contains about 110 United Methodist leaders from all parts of the country, including a majority of active bishops. We have sent the Call to President Bush and to all members of the Senate and House Budget Committees and have released it to the press and to United Methodist national and conference publications.

A couple of days after release of our Call, the Budget Summit between representatives of the White House and Congress came up with a "bipartisan agreement" which retains the old priorities: excessive military spending, neglect of human needs, and refusal to face the debt crisis. Around Washington there is a feeling of inevitability that this compromise will be accepted without change by Congress.

However, we believe that pushing for different budget priorities is still important. For that reason we have sent out the enclosed Peace/Justice Alert to our members and to United Methodist conference leaders throughout the United States. We share it with you and urge you to carry out the suggested action.

With best regards,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

6508 Wilmett Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
April 27, 1989

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
320 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikuski:

**I'm very concerned about the compromise budget that came out of negotiations between the White House and Congress. I'm particularly concerned for my grandson Matthew's sake, shown here when he was about six months old (he just had his first birthday). I believe that the real compromise in the proposed budget is Matthew's future, and the future of his generation.**

The budget makes no appreciably cut in excessive military spending. It provides \$10 to \$20 billion for new strategic weapons and the Star Wars program. We don't need rail garrison MX missiles, a new Midgetman missiles, more Trident submarines, more powerful Trident missiles, the B-2 stealth bomber.

We have too many strategic weapons already. Moreover, a START agreement to cut the supply in half is 80 percent negotiated. So why build more when we could reduce the number significantly? And well-informed people know that SDI is fraudulent. The so-called "brilliant pebbles" is just another crazy attempt to find an excuse for the huge expenditures. All of these things make the world less safe for Matthew and wastes his resources.

This waste of resources calls to mind the wisdom of President Eisenhower, who said in 1953: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." And we can add that it is a theft from prenatal care, maternal and child nutrition, pre-school education, elementary and secondary education, youth employment, adult job training, housing for the homeless and for families who can't find affordable housing.

Perhaps worst of all the proposed budget continues the pattern of our selfish generation laying up huge debts that Matthew and his generation will have to pay off. I would hope that Matthew can get a college education and perhaps go to graduate school. That would place him in the full-time labor force in the year 2012. He might work into the 2050s and beyond. All that time as a taxpayer he might be paying off our debt. Shame on us! We should enact the taxes necessary to end the huge federal deficit.

**So, Senator Mikulski, I urge you -- even at this late moment -- to offer an amendment to the budget resolution, cutting \$10 billion or more from the military budget (the cost of new strategic weapons and Star Wars), using the savings for programs meeting urgent human needs, and requiring revenue increases to reduce the deficit. Please do so for the sake of Matthew and his generation.**

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman

April 27, 1989

The Honorable Dale Bumpers  
229 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

As the Senate nears a vote on the 1990 FY Budget Resolution, I would like to share with you "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs". It is signed by a cross-section of United Methodist bishops from all regions of the United States, including a majority of the active bishops. This Call offers three main recommendations: (1) cutback on excessive military spending, (2) use the savings for urgent human needs, and (3) increases taxes so that our generation takes responsibility for its own debts. Because this is a different set of priorities than the pending Budget Resolution, we ask you to consider offering an amendment that would reflect the priorities of our Call.

If I may put this matter in personal terms, I ask you to do this for the sake of my first grandchild, Matthew, who just celebrated his first birthday. I realize that the true compromise in the budget summit agreement is a compromise of Matthew's generation.

The budget makes no appreciably cut in excessive military spending. It provides \$10 to \$20 billion for new strategic weapons and the Star Wars program. We don't need rail garrison MX missiles, a new Midgetman missiles, more Trident submarines, more powerful Trident missiles, the B-2 stealth bomber.

We have too many strategic weapons already. Moreover, a START agreement to cut the supply in half is 80 percent negotiated. So why build more when we could reduce the number significantly? And well-informed people know that SDI is fraudulent. The so-called "brilliant pebbles" is just another crazy attempt to find an excuse for the huge expenditures. All of these things make the world less safe for Matthew and wastes his resources.

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Perhaps worst of all the proposed budget continues the pattern of our selfish generation laying up huge debts that Matthew and his generation will have to pay off. I would hope that Matthew can get a college education and perhaps go to graduate school. That would place him in the full-time labor force in the year 2012. He might work into the 2050s and beyond. All that time as a taxpayer he might be paying off our debt. Shame on us! We should enact the taxes necessary to end the huge federal deficit.

The Honorable Dale Bumpers  
April 27, 1989  
Page two.

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Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hallman  
Issues Chair

**Signers of  
"A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs"**

**United Methodist Bishops**

Bishop Edsel A. Ammons	Columbus, OH
Bishop George W. Bashore	Mars, PA
Bishop Bruce P. Blake	Dallas, TX
Bishop Edwin Boulton	North Canton, OH
Bishop Sharon Christopher	Minneapolis, MN
Bishop William W. Dew, Jr.	Portland, OR
Bishop Ernest T. Dixon	San Antonio, TX
Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker	Chicago, IL
Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks	Topeka, KS
Bishop Neil L. Irons	Pennington, NJ
Bishop L. Bevel Jones	Raleigh, NC
Bishop Leontine Kelly	San Mateo, CA
Bishop J. Lloyd Knox	Birmingham, AL
Bishop David J. Lawson	Sun Prairie, WI
Bishop William B. Lewis	Fargo, ND
Bishop Richard C. Looney	Macon, GA
Bishop Felton E. May	Harrisburg, PA
Bishop Calvin D. McConnell	Seattle, WA
Bishop C.P. Minnick	Raleigh, NC
Bishop Robert C. Morgan	Jackson, MS
Bishop Susan M. Morrison	Valley Forge, PA
Bishop F. Herbert Skeete	Boston, MA
Bishop Dan E. Solomon	Oklahoma City, OK
Bishop Thomas B. Stockton	Richmond, VA
Bishop John B. Warman	Friendship, MD
Bishop C. Dale White	White Plains, NY
Bishop Woodie W. White	Springfield, IL
Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel	Silver Spring, MD

## Additional Signers of "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities"

### United Methodist Leaders

Rev. Rufus S. Abernathy, Jr.	Annapolis, MD
Dr. Hilda C.M. Arndt	Baton Rouge, LA
Daniel Arvidson-Hicks	Washington, DC
Ressie Mae Bass	Miami, FL
Rev. Dr. Edward W. Bauman	Washington, DC
Rev. Dr. Deanna M. Bleye	Lakewood, CO
Donna H. Boe	Pocatello, ID
Risher Brabham	Rock Hill, SC
Margaret Bryan	Gatlinburg, TN
Rev. Kenneth L. Carder	Knoxville, TN
Herman Carr	Bridgewater, NJ
Rev. Motlalepula Chabaku	Newton, NC
G. Clarke Chapman	Bethlehem, PA
Ralph L. Clark	Arlington, VA
Rev. Rick L. Cornwell	Sarasota, FL
Rev. Mary Council-Austin	Washington, DC
Eloise M. Cranke	Traer, IA
Rev. William G. Cruikshank	Lansing, NY
Rev. Randy Day	New York, NY
William F. Depp	S.St.Petersburg, FL
Rev. Charles O. Dundas	Rosemount, MN
Nancy Eastridge	El Paso, TX
Robert W. Edgar	Washington, DC
Alice H. Emanuel	Hattiesburg, MS
Delia Estrada	Corpus Christi, TX
Rev. John E. Ewald	Hyattsville, MD
F. W. Fertscheider	Atascadero, CA
Margaret Fertschneider	Atascadero, CA
Rev. Donald F. George	Albemarle, NC
Joanne Gillis	Parma, OH
Rev. Robert Griffin	Washington, DC
Rev. Carlee L. Hallman	Sykesville, MD
Howard W. Hallman	Bethesda, MD
Brenda Hardt	Houston, TX

Sherman W. Harris	Potomac, MD
Grace Hasell	Washington, DC
Susan W. Hassinger	Valley Forge, PA
Betty J. Hodges	Decatur, GA
Glenn Hosman	Toledo, OH
Rev. Dr. Joshua Hutchins	Washington, DC
Rubye Lee Jackson	Little Rock, AR
Rev. Chuck Kallaus	Rossville, KS
Dr. W. Astor Kirk	Suitland, MD
Dr. Leon R. Kneebone	State College, PA
Rev. Stanley F. Knock, Jr.	Washington, DC
Rev. Phillip Lawson	Vallejo, CA
Elsie Lewis	Oneonta, NY
Jayne E. Mardock	Cambridge, MA
John Mathews	Suitland, MD
Dr. Sally Milbury-Steen	Wilmington, DE
Rev. Rebekah Miles-Delony	Chicago, IL
Dr. Robert G. Miller	Baldwin, KS
Alan Mitchell	White Bear Lake, MN
Connie L. Mitchell	Lexington, KY
Dr. Rosalio F. Munoz	Los Angeles, CA
Lia Navas	Inglewood, CA
William R. Neil	Richford, VT
Rev. George Ogle	Washington, DC
Nathan Olin	Alliance, OH
Barbara Powell	Jackson, MS
Pam Schantz Rich	Jefferson City, MO
Rev. Betty Richardson	Winnsboro, TX
Eldon P. Roe	Berea, OH
Rev. Henry F. Schwarzmann	Westminster, MD
William D. Scott	Holly Springs, MS
Judge Woodrow Seals	Houston, TX
Sara S. Shingler	Spartanburg, SC
Madeline Shore	Visalia, CA
Rev. Denny M. Silk	Omaha, NE
Gloria A. Smith	Atascadero, CA

Phoebe Smith  
Ralph Smith  
Richard D. Smith  
Rev. Larry Snodgrass  
Thelma G. Soltman  
Rev. Thomas C. Starnes  
William Steven Stone, Sr.

Memphis, TN  
Normal, IL  
Atascadero, CA  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Tacoma, WA  
Baltimore, MD  
Clinton, KY

Marion Tappan  
Rev. Jonathan C. Terry III  
Dr. Barbara Thompson  
Peter Trainor  
Rev. Spencer Turnipseed

Cleveland Hgts, OH  
Harrisburg, PA  
Silver Spring, MD  
Towaco, NJ  
Floral, AL

Rev. Juan A. Vera

Arecibo, PR

Rev. Dr. C. Garland Young

Gastonia, NC