

Catholic Peace Ministry

CPM NEWSBRIEF March 16, 2024

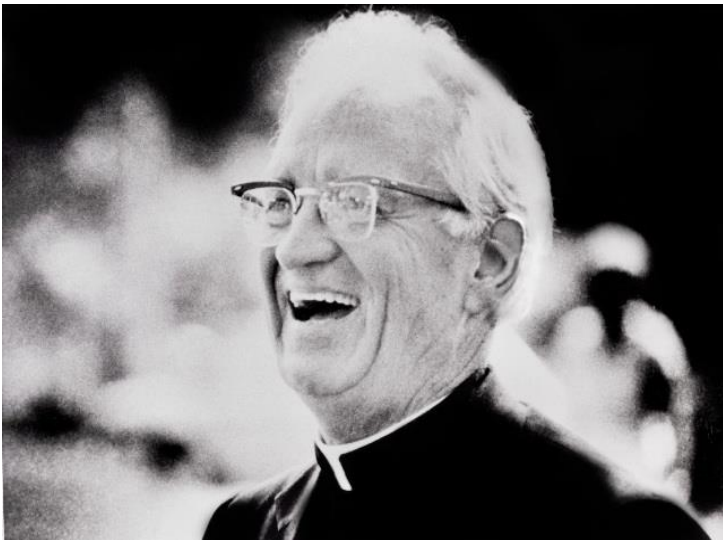
*Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they will be called sons (and daughters) of God (Matt. 5:9).*



Sister Elaine Hagedorn and Sister Jeanie Hagedorn To Receive Prestigious Bishop Maurice Dingman Peace Award, April 6

The Catholic Peace Ministry is happy to announce the 26th annual Dingman Award Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 6 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School. The celebration begins at 6:00 PM with a social hour in the school gym; and ends with the awards presentation to Sr. Elaine Hagedorn and Sr. Marilyn (Jeanie) Hagedorn in the church sanctuary at 7:30 PM

CPM is delighted to hold this 26th annual awards ceremony in honor of Bishop Maurice Dingman and two most deserving peace-makers in our midst, Sr. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn.



*Bishop Maurice Dingman Peace Award Celebration
Saturday, April 6, 2024
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:30 PM Award Ceremony
Holy Trinity Catholic Church & School
2926 Beaver Ave., DM*

Suggested contribution is \$50 per ticket, but any amount will guarantee you a ticket.

You can call 515-710-9902, donate directly on our website, or email catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com with the number of tickets requested and reservation information. You can pay at the door or mail your checks to Catholic Peace Ministry 4211 Grand Ave. DM 50312

You are also invited to be a sponsor by making a donation above the cost of your ticket order.

[We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating Sister Elaine and Sister Jeanie with you.](#)



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CPM AND THE BISHOP DINGMAN PEACE AWARD

By Fr. David Polich (CPM board and founding member)

In 1981 several members of a peace and justice committee in the Des Moines Catholic Diocese approached Bishop Maurice Dingman with a proposal for a staffed office to address international issues of war and peace. This was a time of the Cold War arms race, the threat of nuclear war, and the United States' support of Latin American dictatorships in some countries and anti-democratic revolutionaries in others. Bishop Dingman agreed to the formation of Catholic Peace Ministry and the hiring of Sister Gwen Hennessey as its first director. And that was nearly 43 years ago! CPM has sponsored noted speakers; allied with and supported other peace groups; and advocated, prayed, and protested for a world free of violence.

Maurice J. Dingman served as bishop of Des Moines from 1968 until 1987. During that time he could be found at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, the Polk County Jail, gatherings of farmers and rural life leaders during the farm crisis of the eighties, or marching in the streets of downtown Des Moines. His commitment to the Scriptures' call for social justice and peace was constant in his ministry. His support of CPM was unquestionable.

In 1991 Catholic Peace Ministry as well as the Diocesan Rural Life office were eliminated by a new bishop. The need for a religious peacemaking voice still existed, however. CPM's steering committee decided to incorporate and continue on as an independent entity, trimmed down by necessity to a half-time staff person with efforts focused on central Iowa rather than the entire southwestern corner as before. In 1996 we gave birth to the Bishop Maurice J. Dingman Peace Award Dinner. Our desire was to have a fundraiser which also would nourish attendees with words from a noted peacemaker and honor a local person engaged in the struggle. Our first speaker was Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit. Des Moines' Helen Tichy received our first award. With a pause due to Covid, the event has continued. The gathering of kindred spirits has always been a high point of each event.

This year we honor two marvelous women, Sister Jeanie Hagedorn and Sister Elaine Hagedorn. Both are Sisters of Humility as well as blood sisters. Individually and as a team they have served the People of God in many ways, particularly in the cause of social Justice. We are honored to have them in our midst. Likewise we welcome our presenter, United Methodist Church Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, who has come into our midst with a history of peace and justice work in her own right and already inspired many in Iowa with her preaching and teaching.

"You have been told what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)



CPM Joins Call to Repeal Pentagon Unfunded Priorities List Mandate

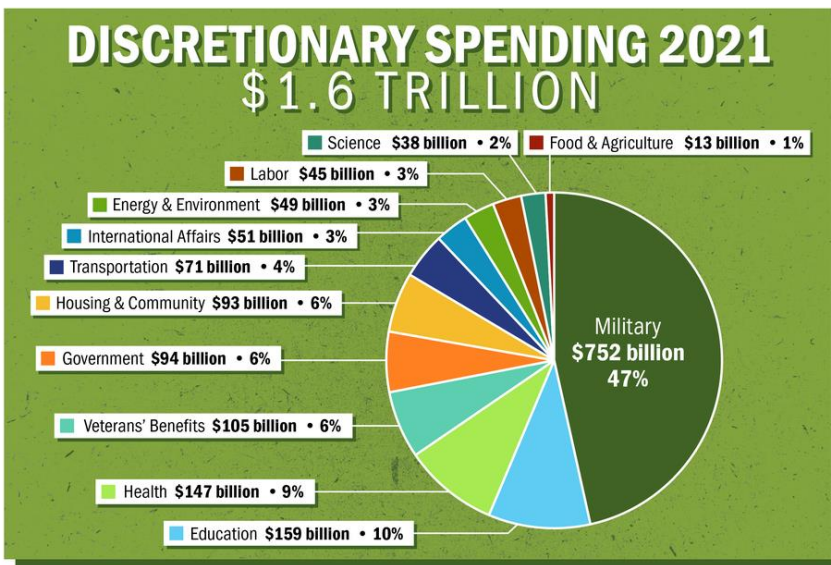
By Caleb Stewart, CPM Peace Intern

Unfunded Priorities Lists (UPLs), is a yearly practice wherein top officers in the seven branches of the armed services submit 'wish lists' to the US Congress. Submission of UPLs is mandated by Congress to outline the items these branches want but did not get into the regular Pentagon budget.

These UPL's are increasingly becoming politically and fiscally unpopular with both the 'average American' and the Pentagon alike. Current Federal outlooks for Fiscal Year 2024 expect upwards of \$16.885 billion to be allocated per these UPLs. The nearly \$17 billion in additional military spending may seem insignificant compared to the \$842 billion already-approved military budget. Looking at it, for example next to the meager allotment of \$5.7 billion for human needs programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), UPLs begin to look like a boondoggle of outrageous proportions.

It is with this added context that some senators, and some representatives, including Iowa Representative Zach Nunn (R), argue that this \$16.885 billion may well be better spent elsewhere.

The 2021 budget without the UPLs:



NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT
AT THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

nationalpriorities.org

Beyond Congressional politics and the funding of human needs programs, such as WIC, UPL funding is an issue of concern for the Pentagon as well. For instance, in a March 2023 letter written on behalf of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, it was noted that "the current statutory practice of having multiple individual senior leaders submit priorities for additional funding, absent the benefit of weighing costs

and benefits across the department is not an effective way to illuminate our top joint priorities.” As well as outlining the financial impact of greenlighting so-called ‘unfunded’ projects, this statement also draws attention to the lack of internal review of the budgets.

Unlike the traditional Pentagon budget-making process of department-wide, consistent and quality communication regarding budgets, UPLs effectively cut out even the little oversight, the appropriate Pentagon officials normally have.

Moreover, because these UPLs do not require intra-department communication, such financial decisions are solely placed upon senior officers in their respective military branches. This lack of oversight and communication incentivizes senior officers to make financial decisions that otherwise may not have been part of the approved military budget. This act of relying on military leadership to make the right call without any semblance of oversight (other than the scant oversight provided by military-oriented congressional committees) does not work. For instance, just days after the Department of Defense (DoD) failed its fifth consecutive audit, the Pentagon submitted a UPL list to Congress, “requesting an additional \$25 billion on top of the over \$24 billion wish list submitted to Congress earlier [in FY22].” The existence of UPLs in DoD spending creates passages for government leaders to shirk fiscal responsibility and government oversight. The UPL system is broken, and the only hope for remediation is to discontinue the system.

It is because of this general circumvention of federal oversight, and the boost to the already bloated military budget, that the Catholic Peace Ministry, is working in collaboration with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), to pass House Resolution 4740, a bill set to repeal the mandate that the military submit UPLs to Congress for funding of their respective wish lists. While we are just beginning this project, CPM, as part of the wider FCNL team, has already met with Senator Jodi Ernst’s office to express our concern surrounding the UPL mandate. We expect to meet with the other members of the Iowa congressional delegation in the weeks ahead.

We at CPM are dedicated to *challenging* the military-industrial complex, *ending* the genocide in Gaza, and *expanding* opportunities for peace and well-being across the US and the world; and ending the Unfunded Priorities Lists mandate is a step on that path to peace!

We cannot take this action without your support! CPM invites you to call your Senator and Representative and tell them to support House Resolution 4740 to end the UPL mandate.

Senator Grassley’s DC Office: (202) 224-3744

Senator Ernst’s DC Office: (202) 224-3254

US House Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Count me in for eliminating the Congressional mandate for the Pentagon “Unfunded Priorities Lists.”

Thank you for being a partner for peace with CPM.