

**2023 ANNUAL MEETING
WARRANT ARTICLE FOUR
BACKGROUND STATEMENT**

At the Annual Meeting of 2021, the congregation approved Warrant Article Three which proposed a two year suspension of the provisions of the Church Bylaw related to Committees. The purpose was to create space for a two year test of the new Church governance structure which had been presented to the membership at the same meeting. (See the next page for the text of the 2021 article.)

During the two year period following the suspension, the Church Council and the Restructuring Committee have worked closely and diligently to test the new governance structure. However, during the same period many societal and cultural changes took place beyond the control of the Church. While some of these changes were beginning to be felt prior to the onset of COVID, they were hastened and exacerbated by the pandemic.

With these changes going on, the Restructuring Committee, with the support of Church Council, believes that it is premature to permanently implement the new Church governance structure without having developed a better understanding of where the Church should be headed in the context of these societal and cultural changes.

Therefore, the Restructuring Committee is proposing to extend the suspension of the Church Bylaw for up to another two years to allow time for a discernment process, leading to a better understanding of the Church's future. The design of the new Church governance structure could then be reconsidered and modified, if needed, to support moving forward toward the Church's new future.

2023 WARRANT ARTICLE FOUR

To see if the Church will approve the following motion:

Acknowledging that:

- 1) certain sections of the Church Bylaw related to Church governance and committees were suspended for a period of up to two years by vote of the congregation at the 2021 Annual Meeting,
- 2) the new Church governance and committee/ministry structure presented at the same Annual Meeting has been operating since it was enabled by the suspension of the Bylaw, and
- 3) the Restructuring Committee and the Church Council believe that further consideration concerning the future of MCC should be undertaken prior to asking for congregational approval of a Bylaw amendment formalizing a new governance structure;

the previously approved Bylaw suspension period as indicated in Paragraph 1, Warrant Article 3 of the 2021 Annual Meeting, will be extended by another period of up to two years, while leaving all other provisions of the 2021 Annual Meeting Warrant Article 3 in place for another period of up to two years.

WARRANT ARTICLE THREE APPROVED AT THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Acknowledging that the Church governance structure has been modified from time to time throughout the Church's history with the goal of bringing Church governance into alignment with contemporaneous Church life and goals, and that such a review of the Church governance has been conducted during this past year with recommendations presented at this Annual Meeting, the recommended modifications to the Church governance structure shall be implemented in the coming fiscal year. The implementation process also specifically includes the following:

- 1) the suspension of "Article III – Committees" of the Bylaw of Memorial Congregational Church of Sudbury, Inc., as updated and revised May 17, 2015 (the "Bylaw"), effective July 1, 2021 and for a period not to exceed two years,
- 2) an acknowledgement that any other provisions of the Bylaw related to Church Committees shall be deemed null and void for the same period,
- 3) the new, recommended governance structure as presented to the Church membership shall be implemented for an "implementation period" which shall be effective July 1, 2021 for a period coincident with the suspension of the current sections of the Bylaw, as described in sections 1 and 2 of this Article,
- 4) positions in the new governance structure shall be filled by vote of Church Council as soon as practicable during the implementation period, with initial members voted in no later than September, 2021,
- 5) the individuals who are currently serving as members of the Church Council will serve as the initial members of Church Council for the implementation period until representatives of the "Ministries" are identified and added to Council membership; however, it is acknowledged that said members may be replaced, or a vacated Council seat filled by vote of the Church Council as the Council deems necessary,
- 6) Church Council shall be authorized to implement and oversee the new structure during the implementation period, ensuring that all of the essential Committee activities are appropriately delegated, and to evaluate and to refine the new structure as and when necessary,
- 7) Church Council shall report to the Congregation from time to time concerning the efficacy of, and adjustments to the new structure, with a full review and recommendation to occur at the conclusion of the implementation period, and
- 8) at the conclusion of the implementation period, the Church membership will be invited to vote on whether to permanently implement the new governance structure, and to approve revisions to Church Bylaw reflecting the new governance structure, at an annual meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.