

Becoming a member
of the General
Anthroposophical Society



"Anthroposophy is a path of knowledge,
to guide the spiritual in the human
being to the spiritual in the universe.""

Rudolf Steiner: Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts,
GA 26, Rudolf Steiner Press, London 1999

Dear Reader!

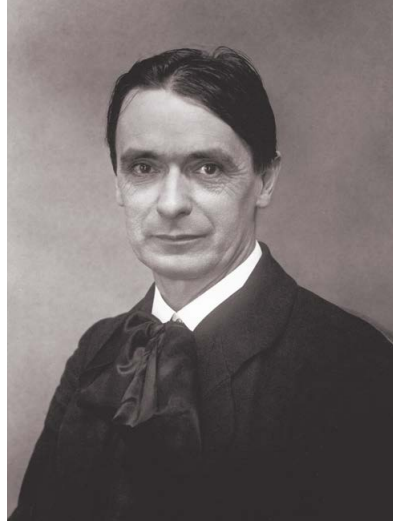
It is likely not by accident that you came to be reading this booklet, and we hope that you find in it a welcome introduction to the Anthroposophical Society as initiated by Rudolf Steiner. This booklet is intended to serve as a kind of overview of and roadmap for the many aspects of the Society. With the Anthroposophical Society at the heart, Anthroposophy and its practices around the world extend far beyond the Society itself.

We hope you will consider becoming a member and are interested in exploring what Anthroposophy has to offer you in your own path of development. Anthroposophy recognises that each individual human is a physical, soul and spiritual being, and that we each find meaning and purpose through relationships to each other, to the world around us, and to the wider universe. Rudolf Steiner's life achievement is that through Anthroposophy as a scientific method of acquiring knowledge, the reality of a spiritual world and its connection to the evolution of the human being can be known.

Further, there are many practical initiatives based on a distinct understanding of people and the world through Anthroposophy as researched and made known by Rudolf Steiner. These include among others: Waldorf education, biodynamic agriculture, natural cosmetics, values-based work with economics, organic architecture, and anthroposophic medicine.

Within the Anthroposophical Society there are numerous paths and levels of commitment, which you are free to explore and choose based upon your own interests and capacities. The Anthroposophical Society supports within it the School of Spiritual Science and its Sections devoted to professional activities. Together these foster impulses for a modern culture and civilisation based on an understanding of the human being and the universe. You will find all of this described in this booklet. However, no booklet can replace the connection to another person and the social value of meeting others who share an interest in spiritual matters.

Rudolf Steiner and the cultural impulse of Anthroposophy



Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925)

Rudolf Steiner was born in 1861, in Donji Kraljevec, in present day Croatia. He studied science at the Technische Hochschule (Technical University) of Vienna. While pursuing his Doctorate of Philosophy in Vienna, he published and wrote a commentary on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's scientific works. In 1894, he published his main work *The Philosophy of Spiritual Activity*. By 1886, he had articulated the basis of his anthroposophical insight and methodology in *The Theory of Knowledge Implicit in Goethe's World Conception*.

In 1902, after working as an editor of various cultural magazines in Berlin and as a lecturer in the Arbeiterbildungsschule (School for the Education of Workers), Rudolf Steiner became General Secretary of the German section of the Theosophical Society. He developed this group together with his future wife Marie von Sivers. In 1904, two fundamental books, *Theosophy*, an introduction to supersensible knowledge of the world, and *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds: How Is It Attained?* were published. *An Outline of Esoteric Science*, containing an overall outline of Anthroposophy followed in 1909.

These foundational anthroposophical writings were developed within the philosophical stream of German idealism and the cultural and spiritual history of the Judeo-Christian West. Together they form the methodological basis of anthroposophical spiritual science. After Rudolf Steiner separated from the Theosophical Society for philosophical reasons, he founded the Anthroposophical Society

in 1912–13. Prior to this founding, and beginning in 1910, an artistic form of expression entered the anthroposophical work with the performance of the four Mystery Dramas written by Rudolf Steiner, along with the emergence of Eurythmy, a new art of movement. Beginning in 1911 plans were developed for the construction of a building to give Anthroposophy and the related arts a suitably designed environment that could also serve as a centre of research and teaching. In 1913, members of the Society laid the foundation stone of the first Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland.

As part of the reform and redevelopment efforts after the First World War (1914–18), anthroposophically inspired initiatives emerged in many areas of life. In the social and economic spheres, Rudolf Steiner presented an approach to organizing all of social life that reflected human and world realities. This approach, the “threefold social organism”, was intended to make clear that different principles apply to each of the three aspects of social life— freedom in the spiritual-cultural sphere, equity and equality in the rights-political area, and brotherhood and sisterhood in the economic realm. Numerous student initiatives called for the reorganization of higher education, while the first Waldorf/Rudolf Steiner School was founded in 1919 as part of the Waldorf Astoria cigarette factory in Stuttgart, Germany. This first school was soon followed by many school initiatives. Medical courses were established, clinics founded, and the Weleda pharmaceutical company came into being. In addition, curative and social therapeutic institutions were established. Steiner also gave a lecture course for farmers which became the foundation for the further development of biodynamic agriculture.

From 1913, with the construction of the first Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, Anthroposophy became increasingly visible as a cultural impulse. This emergence did not go without criticism and opposition. One result was that arsonist set fire to and destroyed the beautiful hand-crafted first Goetheanum in 1922/23. With the reestablishment of the General Anthroposophical Society at Christmas 1923/24, Rudolf Steiner, who until then had been active as a teacher, also took on direct leadership for the initiative. He founded the School of Spiritual Science, with its path of meditative training. Individuals could then, through their vocations, broaden and deepen research into practical fields of work. This was to be the “soul” of the General Anthroposophical Society.

"The Anthroposophical Society is to be an association of people whose will it is to nurture the life of the soul, both in the individual and in human society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world."

Article 1 of the Foundation Statute of the Anthroposophical Society of 1923

Anthroposophical Society

The General Anthroposophical Society is comprised of country-based Societies, anthroposophical groups, branches and initiatives in more than 35 countries around the world. Spiritually interested people find each other through the Society, whose task is the life, nature, and cultivation of Anthroposophy. Through the activities of the Society and interested others, many more people, not only members, have been touched by and benefited from the gifts of Anthroposophy.

Anthroposophy is a science of the spirit, and the Anthroposophical Society is concerned with living Anthroposophy, including the

questions and intentions of its members in the light of current events. The Anthroposophical Society gives space and opportunity for spiritual growth, artistic development, and active citizenship. It exists where people come together, inspired by Anthroposophy, who work on issues of caring for humanity, inner development and community building. This activity ranges from study and conversation groups working with texts by Rudolf Steiner and other material on Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophy, to social initiatives and public events.

Topics are self-determined out of interest and for example cover: the Spiritual Science of Rudolf Steiner, questions of contemporary history, artistic work, celebrating the seasonal festivals, as well as subject-related working groups in professional fields and scientific research contexts. The Anthroposophical Society is active in independent country societies and initiatives all over the world and includes members from many cultures and continents. The Society is the home of the School of Spiritual Science and its Sections.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Anthroposophical Society, you will find an application form and the statutes at the end of this brochure. Institutions or organisations can connect with the Society by becoming partners of the World Goetheanum Association.

In 1923/24, over the course of the founding meeting of the General Anthroposophical Society, Rudolf Steiner gave the members attending a meditation as a spiritual foundation upon which the Society was to find its ground. The substance of this meditation is known as the Foundation Stone Meditation. In many ways, the more one becomes familiar with it and with Anthroposophy, the more one may find orientation upon this Foundation Stone as a meditative embodiment of all the essential aspects of Anthroposophy. The self-awareness stimulated by this meditation can be taken up by everyone at their own discretion. It is cultivated today by many members and it forms the shared inner substance of community in the General Anthroposophical Society all over the world. For anyone new to Anthroposophy, when Rudolf Steiner names the Christ-being, it is because he recognized the Christ-being as a modern incarnation of the Sun-being, a cosmic being embracing all religions whose life on earth gives orientation for what is truly human and deeply connected with the development of the higher Self, or "I" of each individual.

THE FOUNDATION STONE MEDITATION

Human Soul!

You live within the limbs
Which bear you through the world
Of space

Into the spirit's ocean-being:

Practice spirit-recalling

In depths of soul,
Where in the wielding
World-Creator-Being

Your own I

Comes into being

In the I of God,

And you will truly live
In the human world-all being.

For the Father-Spirit of the heights

Holds sway

In depths of worlds,

Begetting life.

Spirits of Strength:

Let ring forth from the heights

What in the depths is echoed,

Speaking:

Out of the Godhead

We are born.

This is heard

By the spirits of the elements

In east, west, north, south:

May human beings hear it!

Human Soul!

You live within the beat of heart and lung
Which lead you through the rhythms
Of time

Into the feeling of your own soul-being:

Practice spirit-sensing

In balance of soul,

Where the surging deeds of world-evolving
Unite

Your own I

With the I of the world;

And you will truly feel

In human soul's creating.

For the Christ-will encircling us

Holds sway

In world rhythms,

Bestowing grace upon souls.

Spirits of Light:

Let from the east be enkindled

What through the west takes on form,

Speaking:

In Christ

Death becomes life.

This is heard

By the spirits of the elements

In east, west, north, south:

May human beings hear it!

Human Soul!

You live within the resting head
Which from the grounds
Of eternity
Unlocks for you world-thoughts:
Practice spirit-beholding
In stillness of thought,
Where the gods' eternal aims
Bestow
The light of cosmic being
On your own I
For free and active willing;
And you will truly think
In human spirit depths.

For the Spirit's world-thoughts
Hold sway
In cosmic being,
Imploring light.
Spirits of Soul:
Let from the depths be entreated
What in the heights will be heard,
Speaking:
In the Spirit's cosmic thoughts
The soul awakens.
This is heard
By the spirits of the elements
In east, west, north, south:
May human beings hear it

At the turning point of time
The spirit-light of the world
Entered the earthly stream of being.
Darkness of night
Had ceased to reign;
Day-radiant light
Shone forth in human souls;
Light
That gives warmth
To simple shepherds' hearts;
Light
That enlightens
The wise heads of kings.

Light divine,
Christ-Sun,
Warm
Our hearts;
Enlighten
Our heads;

That good may become
What from our hearts
We are founding,
What from our heads
We direct
With focused will.

Rudolf Steiner: The Constitution of the General
Anthroposophical Society and the School of
Spiritual Science. *Die Konstitution der Allgemeinen
Anthroposophischen Gesellschaft und der Freien
Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft 1923/24*,
GA260a, P. 34. Based on a translation by
Eva Knausenberger and Christopher Bamford





"Anthroposophy seeks to broaden the knowledge and practical experience that is deepened by the spirit for the most diverse fields"

The School of Spiritual Science and its Sections

The School of Spiritual Science, including its eleven Sections [more information below], forms the core of the Anthroposophical Society. It connects people to whom the question of knowledge is also a practical life question—and vice versa. The starting point of anthroposophically oriented spiritual science is human thought. This approach to knowing is a kind of research unto itself, that is then augmented through consistent observation, reflection, and meditation. The expression of research comes directly through practice itself, which raises issues and questions that are put forward, researched and developed further in the broader context of the School. The members of the School work on a meditative path of knowledge that develops the human being and connects them to the spiritual beings of the world. Those who take up the work of the School of Spiritual Science, founded by Rudolf Steiner, enliven, inspire and strengthen the vocational fields which become effective in their relevant working contexts. The universal spiritual source of Anthroposophy is deepened by this work in the various Sections. For research in the spiritual field of Anthroposophy and its disciplines, perception and stimulation, exchange and communication are essential.

Any member who is prepared not only to take up and maintain Anthroposophy, but also to represent it responsibly may apply for membership of the School of Spiritual Science. Such a choice is based on inner freedom and personal commitment and assumes that the applicant has been a member in good standing of the Society.



Anthroposophy – General Anthroposophical Section

➤
Red Window,
Goetheanum,
Dornach, Switzerland

The General Anthroposophical Section lays the basis for all areas of spiritual research common to all the Sections and the work in the Society. It forms the foundation of the School of Spiritual Science. Its central themes are the teachings of spiritual science, the investigation of the nature of being human, biography, destiny, reincarnation, the essence of the spiritual world and humanity's place within it, the history of humankind, the evolution of the earth, and initiation science itself. In 1924, Rudolf Steiner gave the first of what were planned to be three courses as an esoteric training for members of the School of Spiritual Science. The second and third were not completed due to his death. The First Class with mantric material remains at the heart of the School of Spiritual Science. • The present conditions of life call for a radical and conscious change of values and practices in order to protect our essential human dignity, one that reflects our true being. This change in consciousness has already begun, and it will increasingly recognise the spiritual dimension of human and earthly existence. Active participation in this change is a task of the General Anthroposophical Section. • Activities of the Section include annual meetings with Branch and Group leaders, meetings with the Class Holders who carry responsibility for the mantric path of the First Class, general anthroposophical conferences, symposia and colloquia, as well as foundational anthroposophic studies in German, English and Spanish at the Goetheanum.

<https://allgemeine-sektion.goetheanum.ch/en>



Painting Lesson in
a Waldorf School,
Pisac, Peru

Pedagogical Section

The Pedagogical Section develops and coordinates anthroposophical impulses in the field of education. Through a constantly evolving art of education, the potential and development of each young person can be cultivated. Different pedagogical research areas are addressed in the context of the School of Spiritual Science: e.g. deepening the understanding of human beings; child development and the perception of human individuality; deepening of artistic, collegial and meditative work in education; training programmes and cooperation with other Sections. Section leadership establishes and maintains relations with the international Steiner/Waldorf kindergarten, school, and adult education movement as an essential aspect of the Pedagogical Section's work. Section members also participate in public discussions on education and teaching. The newsletter of the Pedagogical Section reports on the areas of research.

<https://paedagogik-goetheanum.ch/en>

Schooltime,
Huancavelica, Peru





Section for Agriculture

↑
Plant breeding is a key discipline of biodynamic agricultural research

Chamomile blossoms for the biodynamic preparation.



The Agricultural Section has the main task of stimulating and coordinating the biodynamic movement worldwide. The Section collaborates with people who are looking for an anthroposophical and spiritual scientific deepening in the field of agriculture. This is done in the form of courses, working groups, conferences, lecture tours and publications. In addition, research and development projects are carried out. It is particularly important to provide ideas for self-determined activity in agriculture and horticulture, in food processing and trade, in inner meditative work and in outer public relations. The Section actively cultivates a worldwide network of individuals and associations, especially Demeter companies, through research, consulting and training, with foundations connected to the Section and other professional fields such as medicine and education. It promotes the mutual complementarity of analytical natural science, phenomenological Goetheanism, anthroposophical spiritual science and empirical science. In becoming visible and accessible to the world for interested farmers and the public, these insights contribute to a regenerative agriculture that understands itself comprehensively as an “agri-culture”—building culture in and on the land.

www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en



Medical Section

The Medical Section promotes and coordinates the global development, research, teaching and application of anthroposophical medicine in medical practices, medicines and anthroposophical clinics. It specialises in numerous practices (internal medicine, paediatrics, gynaecology and obstetrics, dermatology, neurology and pain therapy, surgery, psychotherapy and psychiatry, etc.) and is constantly evolving through clinical experience and scientific research. There are certified training courses for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, therapeutic eurythmists, art therapists and psychotherapists worldwide. Members of the anthroposophical medical movement work independently in research, development and teachings, in the coordination of national and professional cooperation, in the organization of congresses and public relations. The international coordination of these diverse activities is managed by a consultancy board - the International Coordination of Anthroposophic Medicine (IKAM) at the Medical Section of the School of Spiritual Science. Once a year, the boards of the anthroposophical regional medical associations meet at the Goetheanum for a conference at which the focal points of further Section development are discussed in cooperation with IKAM.

<https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en>

↑
Mistletoe, one of many healing plants central to anthroposophic medicine

Section for Inclusive Social Development

Founded in October 2024, the new Section for Inclusive Social Development addresses the themes related to lives of people with support needs within the School of Spiritual Science. The Leadership Team of the Section and the Circle of Delegates from currently 61 countries work together to develop this theme around contemporary questions. This is reflected in conferences, colloquia, educational initiatives, research topics and partnership-based exchange through visits to organizations worldwide. The common aim is inclusive social work. Social and organizational development processes should be designed in such a way that all those who are impacted by them can participate. Achieving presence of mind – that is, perceiving essential development dynamics and support issues, and consciously and creatively shaping them out of the situation, in resonance with the people



Relationship formation
and sensorimotor
development



Waldorf education as
therapeutic education
in inclusive schools



Friendships are an important part of a fulfilled and successful life

involved, enables the further development of the individual and the social environment. In this sense, the three words "inclusive social development" express the core orientation of this field of work.

On behalf of the Leadership Team of the Section
 Sonja Zausch (with Bart Vanmechelen and Jan Göschel, Head of the Section)
www.inclusivesocial.org

Seasonal festival at the kindergarten of the "Step Together Association", Beirut, Lebanon



Social Sciences Section

The capacity for social reorganization in our own lives and actions, in culture, politics and economics, is what the Section for Social Sciences is about. Its work covers the broad area of social issues, from the relationships between people, to the organization of institutions, businesses and companies, to the major issues of shaping legal, political, economic and cultural life. The appropriate shaping of our social organism has become a question of survival for humanity. Climate change, destruction of resources and depletion of biodiversity, global finance capitalism—these are major themes which demand global attention. From the social division of humanity, to the endangerment of the individual, democracy and society in the context of new technology and artificial intelligence, the future of the earth and humanity, all increasingly depend upon our understanding of interconnections and the ability to take appropriate and collaborative action. Against this backdrop, the Section sees its task as the need to investigate the conditions and regulations which make it possible to act in ways which are appropriate and truly human within the social context. The Section helps train and develop those skills and capacities that can lead to dignified living conditions in society. Members of the Section practice spiritual research and understanding in the various areas of social life, and aim to develop stimulating impulses for multiple social disciplines as well as for society as a whole.

<https://social.goetheanum.ch/en>



World Goetheanum
Forum, 2018





Section for the Spiritual Aspirations of Youth

The Youth Section is a place for the questions, initiatives and projects of young people. It is a meeting place for the exchange of ideas and mutual support through dialogue and initiative. The task of the Section is to support young people in their spiritual aspirations, their need for knowing and their will to bring change to the world. In it, adolescents and young adults develop initiatives that connect them with other people. Regular gatherings and a worldwide network are the basis for creative engagement with questions and challenges of the time, the search for one's individual path, and for the will to engage with the world. The young people themselves determine the activities: these include meetings and conferences on contemporary issues, study groups and social work. The research topic in this Section is the field of youth itself, posing questions and setting investigative approaches, direction, and goals. The international team at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, works, maintains, and promotes connections with individuals and groups worldwide and organizes events. It is responsible for communicating activities, a newsletter, the Section's house just below the Goetheanum as a meeting place, coordinating research projects and study groups, and for the application for appropriate financial resources to foundations.

<https://www.youthsection.org>



Youth Section
Summer Conference

Section for the Performing Arts

From the *logos* the world is created and in speech, music, and gesture human beings express themselves as embodied spirit-soul beings. The Section for the Performing Arts explores topics of what spiritual orientation and meditation mean to the performer and how these can benefit them. The Section brings together eurythmy, speech, drama, music and puppetry in interdisciplinary cooperation, rekindling and developing these arts in the context of other areas of life: pedagogy, therapy, social work, youth projects and adult education. On the basis of anthroposophical anthropology, the Section strives to make the whole human being visible, to express physical, emotional and spiritual aspects and realities. Furthermore, through its specialist and advisory groups the Section for the Performing Arts is a worldwide training centre with teaching and research. As a stage art, eurythmy at the Goetheanum is represented by an international ensemble.

<https://srmk.goetheanum.org/en>



Eurythmy





Dendera, Egypt,
Hathor Temple
ceiling

Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities

Literary Arts and Humanities combines science and the beauty of language, knowledge and creative imagination. Where science aims more at the general and lawful, art originates in individual expression. In the methodical synthesis of both fields, knowledge is reconnected to human beings, just as art is liberated from the limited horizon of the individual. The Section of Literary Arts and Humanities works on understanding the whole cultural past of the mysteries and the rituals of their high cultures, myths of origin and the sacred texts of religions, as well as literature up to the present day. Its fields of work include literature and language, translation, research into fairy and folk tales, aesthetics, history, philosophy, the history of music, art and culture. A most important focus is the language and work of Rudolf Steiner including facilitating its methodical evaluation. This Section is a forum for people who are committed to promoting the work of Anthroposophy, art and science. In addition, there are Section groups in different countries. Culture and study conferences, specialist colloquia, and poetry readings are held regularly. This Section is closely connected with the *Verlag am Goetheanum*, the publishing arm of the School of Spiritual Science. <https://sww.goetheanum.org/en>



"Felsli" feature on the Goetheanum estate, designed by Rudolf Steiner, built 1916



Studying an original pastel sketch by Rudolf Steiner

Visual Arts Section

The work of the Visual Arts Section covers all topics and disciplines in the field of the visual arts. Its main areas are architecture, sculpture and painting, textile design, jewellery design, furniture design, colour design, glass etching, and plant colour research. This Section draws its basis for deliberation and development from the artistic impulses and suggestions of Rudolf Steiner and his students since the beginning of the 20th century. Chief areas of work are to understand art history, contemporary art, and arts potentiality in the future. This Section seeks worldwide exchange with contemporary art. Collaboration with the other Sections at the Goetheanum, especially in art therapy, art education and social art, is an integral part of the work. The special focus of the Section's work is the interest in and deepening of a spiritually conscientious art practice. Implementation consists of conferences, courses, workshops, research retreats, networks, reciprocal visits, exhibitions, presentations, contacts to museums and galleries, and training and professional development. In addition, special areas of the Goetheanum, such as the maintenance and further development of the art collection and the Goetheanum campus are part of the tasks of this Section.

<https://sbk.goetheanum.org/en>



Section for Mathematics and Astronomy

The Mathematical-Astronomical Section seeks to show in tangible research how the human being, as a spiritual entity, is not merely a being defined by chance. It explores paths to the spiritual in the world and thereby expands the existing cognitive limits of astronomy and mathematics, for example in the idea of space and counterspace. The work of the Section includes qualitative studies on mass, quantity and weight, studies on the morphology of the starlit sky and its constellations, as well as on cosmological anthropology and rhythm research. Projective geometry as the basis of a new morphology and physics is of particular importance. An attempt is made to develop approaches for an astronomical and cosmic intelligence right down to the construction of innovative machines, work which was stimulated by Rudolf Steiner and his students. The following questions are at the forefront: How has astronomy developed from pre-Christian times to the present? What tasks are required for the spiritualization of astronomy today? Research into the equivalence between the laws of the microcosm and the macrocosm and the question of the position of the human being in this context bring the Section into a unique interaction with pedagogical, medical and agricultural fields of work. The task of the Section is research and teaching in the fields of mathematics and astronomy in light of anthroposophical spiritual science, as well as providing coordination and collaboration at a local, European and global level.

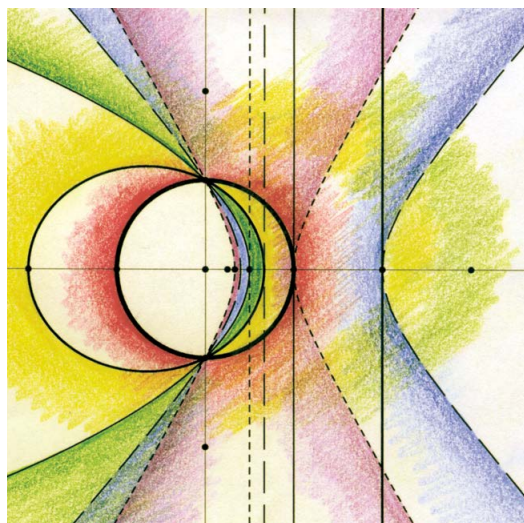
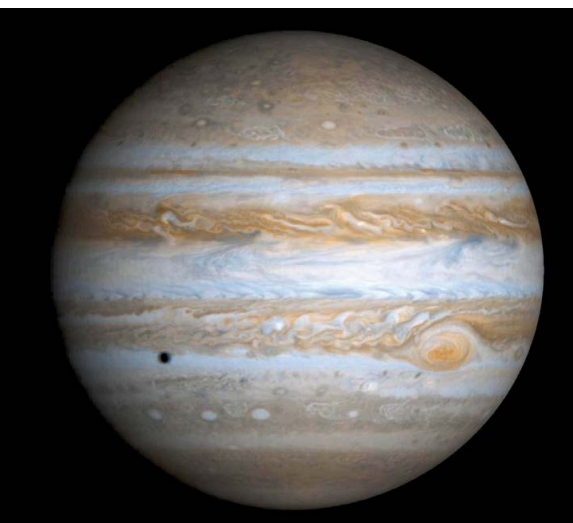
<https://mas.goetheanum.org/en>



Mobility and order
– Jupiter and the
shadow of its moon
Europa, from the
Cassini Probe, De-
cember 2000, NASA



Projective geometry
showing fields of force
within a triangle.





Natural Science Section

The Natural Science Section is a place of collaboration between scientists of different disciplines. It includes exchange on research projects, training activities, the question of how anthroposophically oriented science can be represented in the scientific culture of the present, and on questions of the esoteric deepening of the various fields of work. The basis of the research is the Goetheanistic way of working as well as the methods for deepening phenomenology as suggested by Rudolf Steiner. Research of this kind takes place in many places around the world. In addition, the Section manages an institute in Dornach, where a team works on scientific projects, in particular on medicinal plants, bees, physics projects on light and colour, as well as modern physics. A collaboration with the Medical Section is an experimental project on the question of brain research and free will. As well as Section groups in different countries, there are specialist groups, for instance on medicinal plants ("Bellis"), microbiology, water, physics and chemistry.

<https://science.goetheanum.org/en>



Section researcher with
a swarm of bees



"Experiments in
Colour" exhibition,
Basel 2017



The Goetheanum and its environs

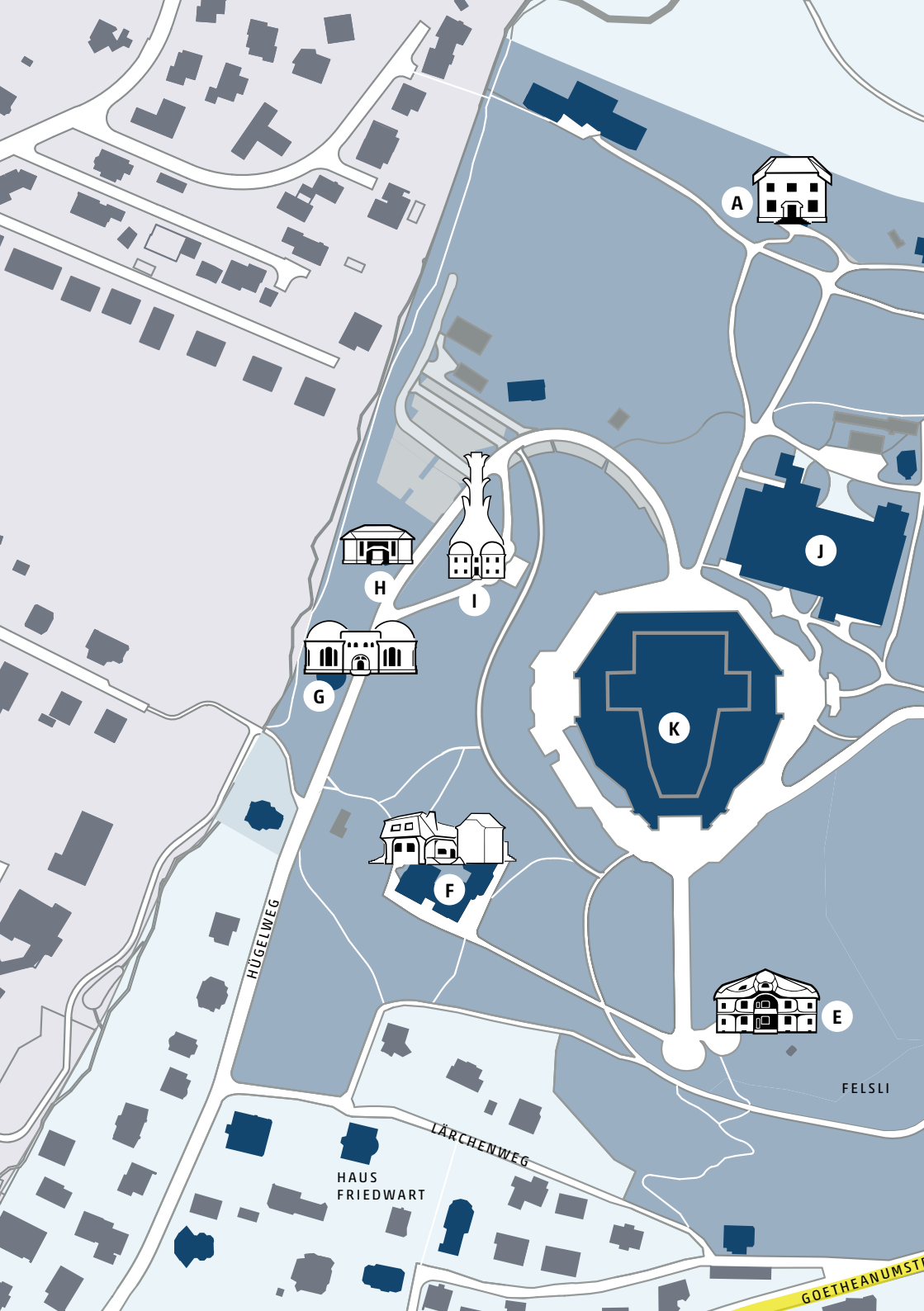
Beginning in 1913, individuals came from 20 nations to create a double-domed wooden building on a hill above the village of Dornach near Basel, Switzerland. Inspired by Rudolf Steiner's revolutionary design, they worked together to realize what has become the all-embracing landmark of Anthroposophy—the Goetheanum. As this remarkable structure took shape, it became the centre of an ever-expanding community of private residences and functional buildings, also designed by Rudolf Steiner. Over time this area has become a vibrant hub of Anthroposophical activity, and a home for artists working out of Rudolf Steiner's indications.

On New Year's Eve 1922/23 this unique building was destroyed by arson. This devastating tragedy inspired an unshakeable resolve to rebuild the Goetheanum. To this end, Rudolf Steiner executed many sketches and a model, and oversaw the planning for this re-building. Springing from the same spiritual sources, Rudolf Steiner's vision for this new building was revolutionary, as was his use of the fairly new material—reinforced



concrete. No other building had used this material with such creativity and sculptural freedom. Both Goetheanum buildings were designed on the principle of metamorphosis where every aspect of the design, every form, colour and detail is an expression of an organic whole. This consciousness of a metamorphic process extends beyond the buildings to the spirit of the place itself—to the movement in the topography, the sculptural character of the terrain and rock formations rising out of the Jura landscape south of the Birs Valley.

Tall windows in the south and north facades, and significant openings facing west, hint at the large hall within. The 1,000 seat Great Hall, at the heart of the building, is intended as a "House of the Word". To the east is the largest and most technically advanced stage of its time. Protectively surrounding it are extensive rehearsal and practice spaces, dressing rooms, and workshops. Below the Great Hall is the intimate 450 seat Foundation Stone Hall. Multiple meeting and studios spaces, along with offices, bookstore, library and archive support a continuous schedule of conferences and performances. In addition, all of the facilities needed for the operation of the worldwide General Anthroposophical Society, and the School of Spiritual Science with its Sections are housed here.



A



H



I



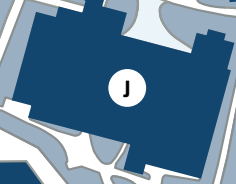
G



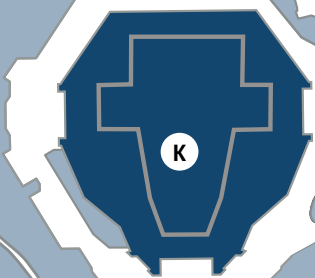
F



E



J



K

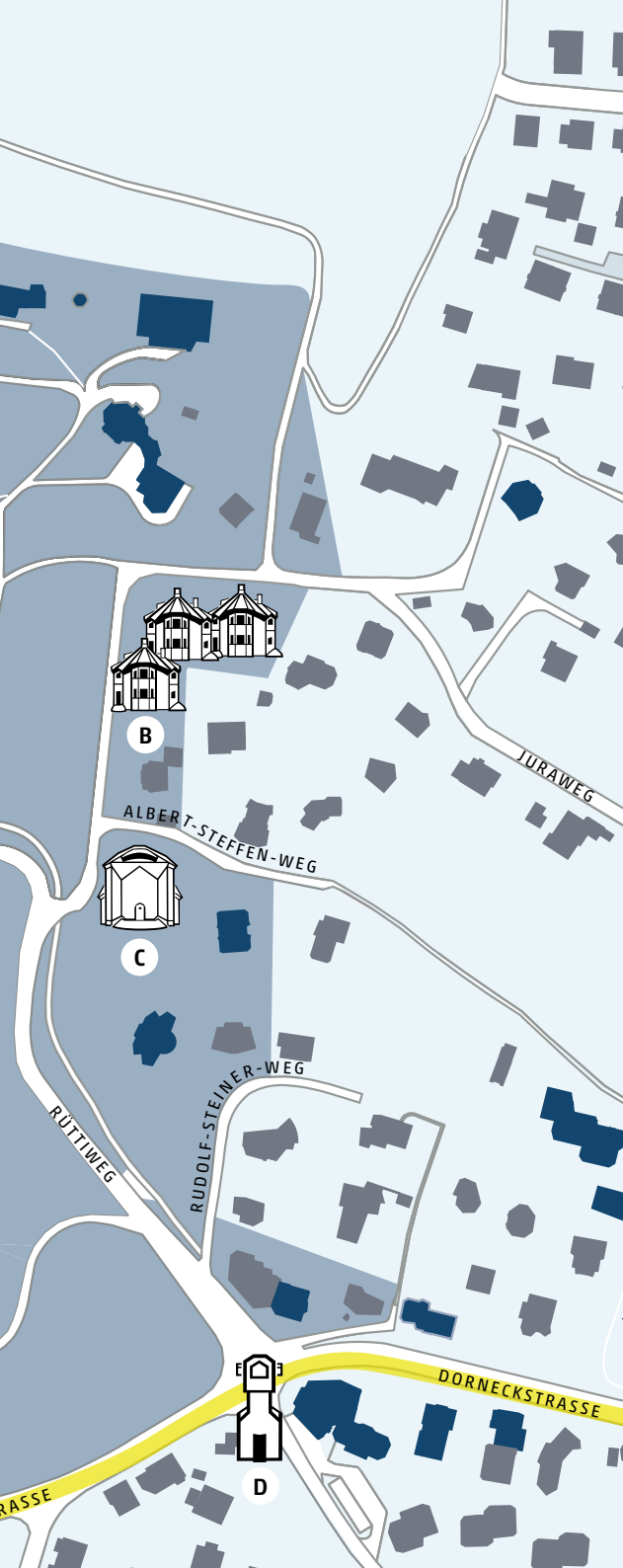
HÜGELWEG

LÄRCHENWEG

HAUS
FRIEDWART

FELSLI

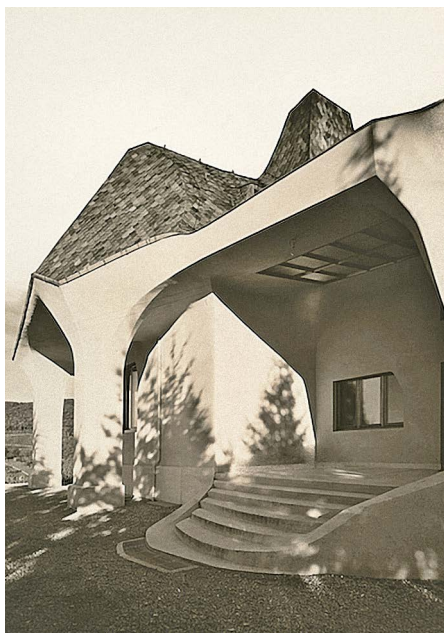
GOETHEANUMSTRAßE



Buildings designed by Rudolf Steiner

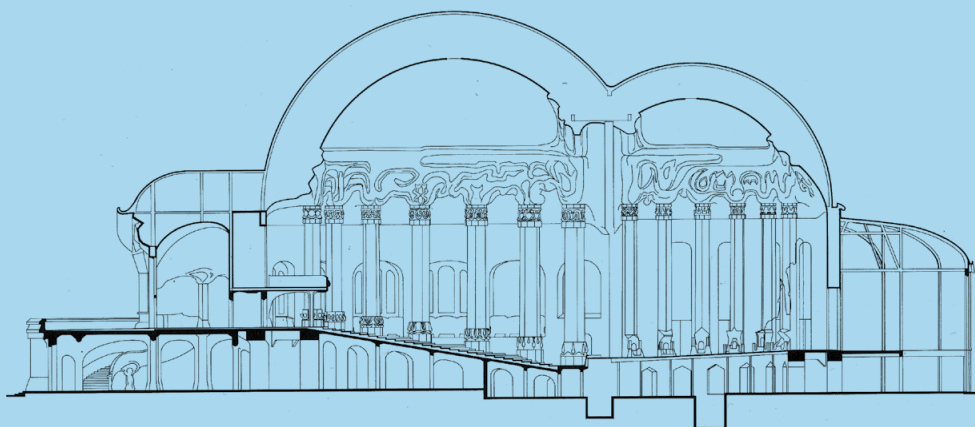
- A Schuurman House
- B Eurythmy houses
- C de Jaeger House
- D Transformer building
- E Duldeck House
- F Rudolf Steiner *Halde*
- G Glass House
- H Publishing premises
- I Heating plant
- J Carpentry building – *Schreinerei*
- K Goetheanum

Surrounding the Goetheanum are numerous homes designed, or inspired, by Rudolf Steiner's organic architectural impulse. Section buildings, research laboratories, art studios and educational institutions with their support facilities, and an observatory complete the extensive campus. Biodynamic gardens link these many structures and help supply a public restaurant that welcomes all.

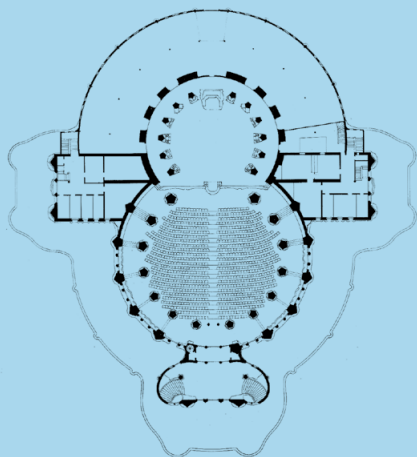


Each year thousands of conference participants and visitors come to the Goetheanum and its campus from around the world, and over 220 co-workers work tirelessly to support the work taking place here.

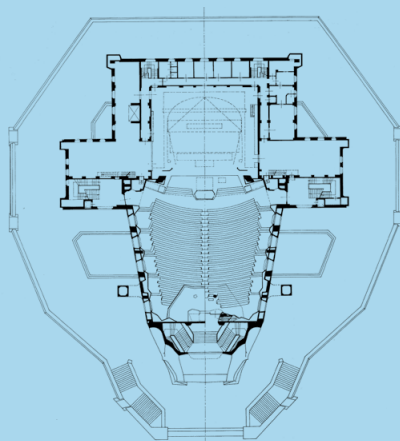
The Goetheanum is the home of the School of Spiritual Science.



First Goetheanum, Cross section



First Goetheanum, Ground plan



Second Goetheanum, Ground plan



The Goetheanum Stage

Goethe's *Faust*, one of the greatest theatrical works of world literature, celebrated its unabridged world premiere in 1938 on the Goetheanum stage and has since been performed more than 80 times. *Faust* is presented at the Goetheanum as a synthesis of the arts, in which language, drama, eurythmy, a movement art newly developed by Rudolf Steiner, and lighting interact in a unique way.

This is also the case with Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas, which had their world premieres in Munich between 1910 and 1913. They in turn inspired the building of the Goetheanum. The Mystery Dramas dramatize the strivings, failures, and development of a group of people at various stages of spiritual growth, presenting their attempts



Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble

to work together, their conscious and unconscious encounters with spiritual beings and powers, and with destiny from ancient times and its consequences. Together with Faust these five plays form a central task of the work at the Goetheanum: artistic, philosophical and spiritual.

To this day, the performing arts including eurythmy and drama are a major focus of work at the Goetheanum, as are concerts and recitations. Performers include the Goetheanum eurythmy stage group, project ensembles, stage and guest performance groups, along with musicians and soloists from near and far.

<https://goetheanum-buehne.ch>

Become a member of the Anthroposophical Society

Membership in the Anthroposophical Society offers the opportunity to get to know Anthroposophy comprehensively and work in a community of shared inquiry which includes, if desired, participating in the practical and active life of the Society. While most of the Society activity is local to regions and countries, all members are also automatically members of the world Society called the General Anthroposophical Society. As such, all members of the world make possible the anthroposophical work and research of the School of Spiritual Science in its eleven Sections at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. Your membership contribution or fee supports your local group, your national society, the world society, and the Goetheanum.

Everyone is welcome as a member of the Anthroposophical Society, regardless of their worldview, national or cultural origin, religion, gender, or any other protected group. Membership means simply that you acknowledge the value and validity of Anthroposophy and that something like the Goetheanum should be active in the world. The Society is public, without political goals or agenda, or religious affiliations.

Membership in the General Anthroposophical Society usually involves joining a national society or group. As part of that membership you become a part of the worldwide Society.

In exceptional cases, however, membership may be requested as an individual member directly affiliated with the Goetheanum. This can be useful for people who often change their place of residence or who cannot find affiliation with a national society or group.

To join send the completed and signed application form to your national society—the address can be found on our website www.goetheanum.ch. To register as an individual member, please send the application directly to the Members' Services Office at the Goetheanum, PO Box, CH 4143 Dornach. Membership is confirmed with a membership card signed by a member of the Executive Council and the Country Representative where appropriate.

For further information, please contact the Members' Services Office at the Goetheanum, a local group or a national society.

**General
Anthroposophical
Society**
Members' Services Office
Goetheanum
CH-4143 Dornach
Tel. +41 61 706 42 72
sekretariat@goetheanum.ch



Historical and Organizational Background

Below you will find the founding statutes for the General Anthroposophical Society that Rudolf Steiner formulated during the Christmas Conference 1923/24. It describes the task and objectives of the Society and the School of Spiritual Science. The Current statutes of the Society follow afterwards.

Foundation Statute of the Anthroposophical Society of 1923

1. The Anthroposophical Society is to be an association of people whose will it is to nurture the life of the soul, both in the individual and in human society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.
2. The persons gathered at the Goetheanum in Dornach at Christmas, 1923, both the individuals and the groups represented, form the nucleus of the Society. They are convinced that there exists in our time a genuine science of the spiritual world, elaborated for years past, and in important particulars already published; and that the civilisation of today is lacking the cultivation of such a science. This cultivation is to be the task of the Anthroposophical Society. It will endeavour to fulfil this task by making the anthroposophical spiritual science cultivated at the Goetheanum in Dornach the centre of its activities, together with all that results from this for brotherhood in human relationships and for the moral and religious as well as the artistic and cultural life.¹
3. The persons gathered in Dornach as the nucleus of the Society recognise and endorse the view of the leadership at the Goetheanum (represented by the Vorstand [Executive Council] formed at the Foundation Meeting): 'Anthroposophy, as fostered at the Goetheanum, leads to results which can serve every human being as a stimulus to spiritual life, whatever their nation, social standing or religion. They can lead to a social life genuinely built on brotherly love. No special degree of academic learning is required to make them one's own and to found one's life upon them, but only an open-minded human nature. Research into these results, however, as well as competent evaluation of them, depends upon spiritual-scientific training, which is to be acquired step by step. These results are in their own way as exact as the results of genuine natural science. When they attain general recognition in the same way as these, they will

bring about comparable progress in all spheres of life, not only in the spiritual but also in the practical realm.'

4. The Anthroposophical Society is in no sense a secret society, but is entirely public. Anyone can become a member, without regard to nationality, social standing, religion, scientific or artistic conviction, who considers as justified the existence of an institution such as the Goetheanum in Dornach, in its capacity as a School of Spiritual Science. The Anthroposophical Society rejects any kind of sectarian activity. Party politics it considers not to be within its task.
5. The Anthroposophical Society sees the School of Spiritual Science in Dornach as a centre for its activity. The School will be composed of three classes. Members of the Society will be admitted to the School on their own application after a period of membership to be determined by the leadership at the Goetheanum. They enter in this way the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science. Admission to the Second or Third Classes² takes place when the person requesting this is deemed eligible by the leadership at the Goetheanum.
6. Every member of the Anthroposophical Society has the right to attend all lectures, performances and meetings arranged by the society, under conditions to be announced by the Vorstand.
7. The organising of the School of Spiritual Science is, to begin with, the responsibility of Rudolf Steiner, who will appoint his collaborators and his possible successor.
8. All publications of the Society shall be public, in the same sense as are those of other public societies.³ The publications of the School of Spiritual Science will form no exception as regards this public character; however, the leadership of the School reserves

¹ The Anthroposophical Society is in continuity with the Society founded in 1912. It would like, however, to create an independent point of departure, in keeping with the true spirit of the present time, for the objectives established at that time.

² These have not yet been established.

³ The conditions under which one acquires training have also been made public, and their publication will be continued.

the right to deny in advance the validity of any judgment on these publications which is not based on the same training from which they have been derived. Consequently, they will regard as justified no judgement which is not based on an appropriate preliminary training, as is also the common practice in the recognised scientific world. Thus, the publications of the School of Spiritual Science will bear the following note: 'Printed as manuscript for members of the School of Spiritual Science, Goetheanum, ... Class. No one is considered competent to judge the content, who has not acquired – through the School itself or in a manner recognised by the School as equivalent - the requisite preliminary knowledge. Other opinions will be disregarded, to the extent that the authors of such works will not enter into a discussion about them.'

9. The purpose of the Anthroposophical Society will be the furtherance of spiritual research; that of the School of Spiritual Science will be this research itself. A dogmatic stand in any field whatsoever is to be excluded from the Anthroposophical Society.

10. The Anthroposophical Society shall hold a regular General Meeting at the Goetheanum each year, at which time the Vorstand shall present a full report with accounting. The agenda for this meeting shall be communicated by the Vorstand to all members, together with the invitation, six weeks before the meeting. The Vorstand may call special meetings and fix the agenda for them. Invitations to such meetings shall be sent to members three weeks in advance. Motions proposed by individual members or groups of members shall be submitted one week before the General Meeting.

11. Members may join together in smaller or larger groups on any basis of locality or subject. The headquarters of the Anthroposophical Society is at the Goetheanum. From there the Vorstand shall bring to the attention of the members or groups of members what it considers to be the task of the Society. The Vorstand communicates with officials elected or appointed by the various groups. Admission of

members will be the concern of the individual groups; the certificate of membership shall, however, be placed before the Vorstand in Dornach, and shall be signed by them out of their confidence in the officials of the groups. In general, every member should join a group. Only those for whom it is quite impossible to find entry to a group should apply directly to Dornach for membership.

12. Membership dues shall be fixed by the individual groups; each group shall, however, submit 15 Swiss Francs⁴ for each of its members to the central leadership of the Society at the Goetheanum.

13. Each working group formulates its own statutes, but these must not be incompatible with the Statutes of the Anthroposophical Society.

14. The organ of the society is the weekly 'Das Goetheanum', which for this purpose is provided with a supplement⁵ containing the official communications of the Society. This enlarged edition of 'Das Goetheanum' will be supplied to members of the Anthroposophical Society only.

The Founding Vorstand
 President Dr. Rudolf Steiner
 Vice-President Albert Steffen
 Recorder Dr. Ita Wegman
 Members Marie Steiner
 Dr. Elisabeth Vreede
 Secretary and Treasurer Dr. Guenther Wachsmuth

On the basis of the founding statute of 1923 and the statutes, the General Anthroposophical Society can continue striving to accomplish its task of "combining the greatest conceivable openness with true and genuine esotericism" (Rudolf Steiner, GA 260).

⁴ At the General Meeting at Easter 1990 this was raised from 100 to 125 Swiss Francs, 300 Francs for those attached directly to Dornach.

⁵ For English-speaking members, "Anthroposophy Worldwide" is published ten times a year and contains translations of the supplement.

Current Statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society

1. Under the name 'Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft' is to be found an association in accordance with Article 60ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, with its headquarters in Dornach, Switzerland. This association (hereinafter called the Society) has been listed in the Business Register according to Article 61 of the Swiss Civil Code.

2. The Society pursues its tasks and goals according to the Founding Statutes proposed to it by Rudolf Steiner and unanimously accepted by the members at the Foundation Meeting on 28 December 1923. Corresponding to these Founding Statutes, it is the task of the Society to cultivate artistic, scientific and educational pursuits in accordance with the Goetheanum as School of Spiritual Science. The Anthroposophical Society is a thoroughly public one. Anyone may become a member, regardless of nationality, origin, religion, or scientific or artistic convictions, who recognises something rightful in the existence of such an institution as the Goetheanum in Dornach, which serves as the School of Spiritual Science.

3. The General Anthroposophical Society is the legal entity of the School of Spiritual Science in accordance with Articles 5, 7 and 9 of the Founding Statutes. The Goetheanum Leadership designated in the Founding Statutes includes the members of the Vorstand as well as the leaders of the individual Sections of the School of Spiritual Science, who regulate their own forms of working.

4. Membership is granted by the Vorstand on the basis of a written application. One becomes a member at the moment a member of the Vorstand of the General Anthroposophical Society has signed the membership card.

Members may join together in groups on any basis of locality or subject, and these groups shall designate their own officers. The Vorstand enters into communication with them in order to convey from the Goetheanum what the Vorstand considers to be the task of the society. The use by the groups of the name 'Anthroposophical Society', whether alone or in

combination with other expressions presupposes the agreement of the Vorstand at the Goetheanum.

5. The resignation of a member takes place by means of a written declaration submitted to the Vorstand. A member may be excluded from the society by resolution of the Vorstand without stating the reason.

6. The 'General Anthroposophical Society' has as its organs:

- a) the General Meeting,
- b) the Vorstand (Executive Council)
- c) the auditing firm.

7. The Society convenes a regular General Meeting at the Goetheanum within six months of the close of each fiscal year. The date is announced by the Vorstand in January. The agenda set by the Vorstand for this meeting, together with the invitation to it, is given to all members six weeks before the date of the meeting, either through the official organ of the Society or by other means.

Extraordinary General Meetings will be called by the Vorstand either on its own motion or at the request of a fifth of the members. The agenda and invitation to an extraordinary General Meeting will be announced three weeks in advance.

Motions proposed by individual members or groups of members for consideration by the regular General Meeting must reach the Vorstand at least eight weeks in advance. Motions pertaining to the announced agenda of the General Meeting are to arrive at least one week before the beginning of the Meeting.

8. All matters lying within the sphere of members' rights (e.g. changes in the Statutes, endorsement of the appointment of the President or other Vorstand members, setting of membership dues, acceptance of the balance sheet), are to be determined by the General Meeting.

Requests that concern the spiritual goals and tasks of the Society shall be handled in free discussion only. A vote on such matters is not taken.

The Annual General Meeting is presided over by a member of the Vorstand of the Society or by a chairman designated by the Vorstand.

The decisions of the General Meeting are recorded in minutes, which are published in the official organ of the Society.

9. In the regular General Meeting the Vorstand reports on the work and presents the balance sheet for the preceding year. The findings of the auditing firm are to be communicated to the General Meeting.

10. The Vorstand represents the Society before the public. The signature of two members of the Vorstand on behalf of the Society is legally binding. The Vorstand can appoint persons authorized to act and sign on behalf of the Society.

11. The General Meeting chooses an auditing firm to examine the books and cash accounts.

12. The Society is led by an initiative council, consisting of a minimum of three members.

The nomination of the Chair and the additional members of the Executive Council follow proposals made by the Executive Council in agreement with the General Meeting for a period of seven years. Extensions for further seven years are possible by affirmation.

The assignment of duties within the Executive Council and its manner of conducting business are to be regulated by the Executive Council itself.

13. The Society derives its income from membership dues, gifts, legacies, entrance fees, income from assets and the like, and also from receipts of the weekly 'Das Goetheanum'.

Membership dues are determined by resolution of the General Meeting.

14. The Society publishes the weekly magazine 'Das Goetheanum – International Weekly for Anthroposophy and Threefolding' which contains a supplement for official Society communications.

It applies in all forms of medial distribution, both printed and electronic, and in all languages.

15. Liability for the obligations of the Society rests only with the Society's assets. Members have no personal liability. Members who have resigned or who have been excluded lose all claim to the assets of the Society.

16. In the event of the Society's dissolution, the General Meeting shall determine the use of the assets and the method of liquidation. The assets shall be put to use in harmony with the tasks of the Society.

As of: Annual General Meeting 2025, 4 April 2025

*The Executive Council of the
General Anthroposophical Society*

Comments: These statutes are based on those registered in 1913 in the Commercial Register as "Verein des Goetheanum der Freien Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft", in short "Goetheanum Bauverein". The Bauverein was renamed on February 8, 1925 as the "General Anthroposophical Society". After a number of changes to the statutes over the decades, the General Assembly of 12 April 2014 linked this statute with the unchanged founding statute of the Christmas Conference of December 28, 1923 (see Articles 2 and 3).

As well as those in Article 17, further amendments were made by the General Meetings on 23 March 2002 to Articles 4, 8 and 10, on 15 March 2008 to Articles 6, 9 and 11 and on 16 April 2011 to Article 12. Finally, the most recent changes on April 12, 2014 were made to Articles 2, 3 and 13. Revision of Article 14 as of 1 April 2023.

** The membership fee was set by resolution of the General Assembly at Easter 1990 at CHF 125 per calendar year for members affiliated to national societies, branches or groups. individual members who are directly affiliated with Dornach the membership fee is CHF 300 per calendar year.*

The Goetheanum website at www.goetheanum.ch/en offers you extensive information, including background on the School of Spiritual Science and the Executive Council of the Anthroposophical Society, the addresses of the national societies and a detailed calendar of events. Goetheanum operating hours, tour times, and contact persons are also listed. We would look forward to your visit to the home of worldwide movement and the buildings which embody that movement.

Published by the General
Anthroposophical Society
2nd edition 2023

Picture Credits: Simon Peter (P. 1, 2, 10 f., 32 f., 42),
Charlotte Fischer (P. 15), all others Goetheanum.

Layout: Wolfram Schildt

© 2020, General Anthroposophical Society
Rüttiweg 45, CH-4143 Dornach

Authors: Christiane Haid and Matthias Girke
Translated and revised by: Monika Clément,
Sue Simpson, David Fairclough, John Bloom,
and Jan Baker-Finch, May 2020

List of websites:

<https://goetheanum.ch/en>

Pedagogy: <https://goetheanum-paedagogik.ch/en>

Agriculture: <https://sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en>

Youth: <https://youthsection.org>

Performing Arts: <https://srmk.goetheanum.org/en>

Lit. Arts and Humanities: <https://ssw.goetheanum.org/en>

Visual Arts: <https://sbk.goetheanum.org/en/>

Mathematics and Astronomy: <https://mas.goetheanum.org/en/>

Natural Science: <https://science.goetheanum.org/en>

Social Science: <https://social.goetheanum.ch/en>

Medical: <https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en>

Other websites:

www.worldgoetheanum.org/en

www.inclusivesocial.org/

www.waldorf-resources.org/en

→ Picture page 43

The Representative of Humanity between the two evil
powers of Lucifer and Ahriman. Wooden Sculpture by
Rudolf Steiner and Edith Maryon

Becoming a member

I would like to become a member of the
General Anthroposophical Society.

Title

First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

City

Country

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Phone

Email

Occupation

Contact language

Please choose your affiliation within the General Anthroposophical Society
(national society/ group/individual member directly at the Goetheanum)

☐ National Society/Group

☐ Individual Member directly at the Goetheanum

Language of communication

☐ Deutsch ☐ English ☐ Français ☐ Español First language:

Comments

Membership contribution

The contribution is an integral part of the membership. Each country society or group independently determines the membership fee. For individual members directly affiliated to the Goetheanum in Dornach, the contribution amounts to CHF 300 per calendar year.

Data privacy protection

The General Anthroposophical Society uses personal information for its own purposes only and does not disclose it to third parties. The General Anthroposophical Society has its own database and manages its own addresses. These addresses are neither rented nor sold. With the registration I confirm to have read the statutes:

Place and Date

Signature

Please send this application to: **Members' Services Office, Goetheanum, Postbox, CH-4143 Dornach,**
or via E-Mail to: **sekretariat@goetheanum.ch**

We will gladly answer any questions under this number: **+41 61 7064272**







