



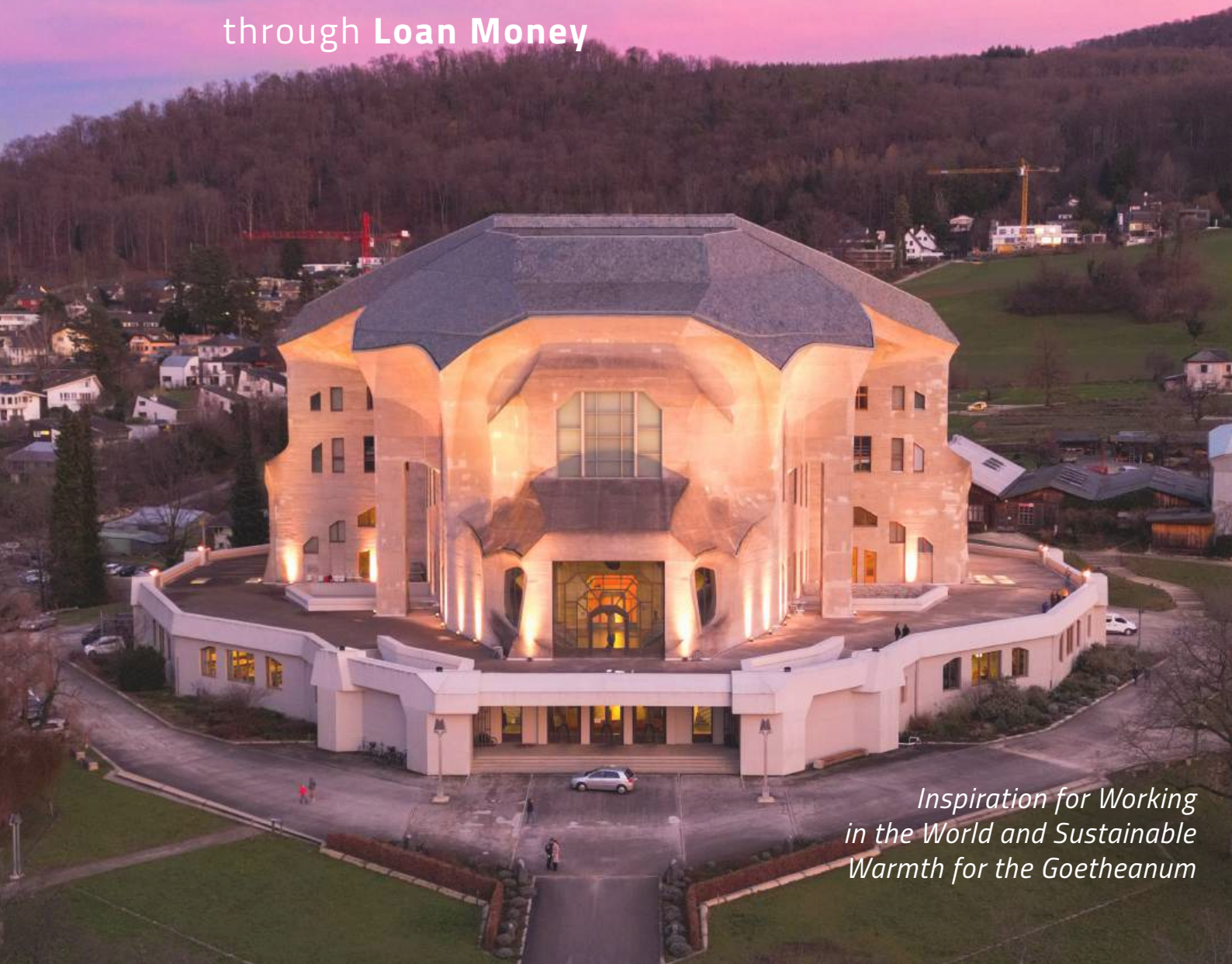
# Funding Appeal 2025

## Research

at the Goetheanum  
through **Gift Money**

## Warmth

for the Goetheanum  
through **Loan Money**



*Inspiration for Working  
in the World and Sustainable  
Warmth for the Goetheanum*



**Dear Members,  
Dear Friends and Supporters  
of the Goetheanum!**

*The Goetheanum, as the School for Spiritual Science, has undergone intensive development in recent years. The twelve specialist sections, in close exchange with their respective fields of practice and with many affiliated institutions, are proving to be highly fruitful.*

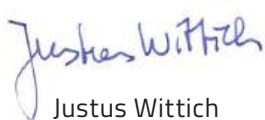
*Now, as we move beyond 2025/26, a strong and purposeful step into the future is required. What is at stake is nothing less than bringing inspiration to those active in practical life – to help address the urgent needs of our time and to contribute meaningfully in fields such as education, medicine, agriculture, and social questions. By following the anthroposophical path of knowledge, we are called to push beyond the boundaries of today's understanding into new territory – and to make these insights fruitful for practical life. Furthermore, artistic activity and experiences on stage are intended to give many people renewed strength and inner resilience in facing the tasks life places before them. Finally, the Goetheanum, as a School of Spiritual Science, seeks to unfold the mantras given by Rudolf Steiner as a source of spiritual research and, at the same time, as an expression of anthroposophy itself.*

*This research task, however, can only succeed outwardly if it is supported by a functioning infrastructure. And for that, the Goetheanum – quite literally – needs more warmth! After 30 years and amid changing technical conditions, the Goetheanum building complex – together with the surrounding properties – is in urgent need of a new, ecologically exemplary and thus sustainable heating system, specifically in time for the heating season beginning in autumn 2026.*

*Both aims require financial means: on the one hand, it is a matter of enabling more research and establishing a **research fund** that provides **gift money** which can be planned with long-term perspective – and on the other hand, it is about making **loan money** available for a set period to finance the urgently needed **new heating system**, which will gradually cover its own costs through ongoing heat supply.*

*We therefore appeal to you – as members of the Anthroposophical Society, especially as members of the School of Spiritual Science (holders of the blue membership card), and as friends of the Goetheanum – to make a strong and wholehearted commitment in support of these two goals.*

*On behalf of the Executive Council and the Goetheanum Leadership  
June 2025*

  
Justus Wittich

  
Constanza Kaliks

  
Ueli Hurter

  
Stefan Hasler



# Research at the Threshold

Research beyond the boundaries of the known – impulses from the School of Spiritual Science.

In the 100th year of its existence, the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum is consciously directing its work towards more future-oriented research. Within the Goetheanum leadership, we call this 'research at the threshold' in order to express that spirit and matter mutually question and inspire one another. Through the collaboration of the twelve sections and the First Class of the School, research initiatives are currently emerging that unite spiritual inspiration with practical effect.

## Four examples:

### 1. Potentising and Dynamising

Potentising in medicine and dynamising in agriculture have been widely practised for a hundred years. We observe effects, and we experience evidence in the processes of preparation and application. But what about our understanding? Is it possible to penetrate the phenomenon – "the smaller the amount of substance, the greater the effect" – through thinking? The concept of counterspace is an attempt to develop models of thought that reach beyond material causality.

### 2. Art and Technology

More and more, our thinking and actions are shaped by technical structures and processes. This can become a threat to our physical, soul, and spiritual health. Can artistic practice – in painting, sculpture, architecture, art contemplation, eurythmy, music, speech formation, and drama – provide a counterbalance? The research seeks to show which artistic procedures, methods, and formats can awaken and cultivate physical regeneration, soul mobility, joy, and creative power through the I – in order to stand firm in the struggle for the human in the 'soul distress of the present age'.

### 3. Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas

Historically, the stage and the Great Hall were built primarily to serve Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas. A further development, a new production, is now due. We wish to continue exploring how the themes of reincarnation and karma – as keys to knots of destiny – can be acted, spoken, and staged today, in such a way that we may be awakened and

strengthened in our personal and social threshold situations.

### 4. The First Class as a Source of Public Representation

How can the 19 Class Lessons be opened up as a spiritual foundation for the sections and their respective fields of work – from the teachings of light to those of the hierarchies, from the word to the cosmic Word, from the nature and form of the Guardian of the Threshold to the composition of the meditative path of the First Class?

**These four examples represent a wealth of research projects across the twelve sections that are either in planning, already submitted, or currently underway. The aim is therefore to increase the Goetheanum's annual research budget by around 1.2 million Swiss francs by the year 2030.** This would amount to a doubling of the current research funds, set against the overall operating costs of the Goetheanum and its stage, which currently total approximately 20 million francs. In terms of the quality of money, what is needed here is a continuous and reliably plannable flow of unrestricted gift funding.

*What is called for is your will-impulse on behalf of the work and the future of the School of Spiritual Science! You are warmly invited to affirm this step toward the future with a one-off, larger donation. However, our primary concern is for medium- to long-term support — a regular monthly contribution by standing order, one that remains manageable for you. Research initiatives require sustained support over time. Here we are addressing, in particular, all members of the School itself — for it is they who have made the anthroposophical cause their own. Support the research activity with a monthly contribution!*

# Warmth for the Goetheanum

The current heating system is reaching the end of its service life. A new system is planned, and the building application has been submitted. If all goes well, construction will begin this autumn, and the new system will be brought into operation for the 2026/27 heating season. In what follows, we would like to inform you about the key aspects of the project and invite you to take part in its financing through loan money.

## Four Requirements for the New Heating System

- The historic Heizhaus (boiler house) is to remain in operation, and the chimney should continue to smoke.
- The radiators in the Goetheanum require high flow temperatures (70°C).
- The new heating system must be climate-neutral and ecologically exemplary.
- The heating costs must remain affordable for the Goetheanum.



After reviewing many different options, we have decided in favour of a woodchip heating system. This choice allows us to best meet the four key requirements.

**The historic Boiler House** is to remain in operation, and the chimney must continue to smoke. To make this possible, we need to create additional space: by building an underground service hall directly next to the Boiler House.

The radiators in the 100-year-old Goetheanum require **high flow temperatures** (70 degrees Celsius). At present, we heat with natural gas — which is expensive, ecologically unsound, and unreliable in terms of supply. For the new woodchip heating system, the wood will be sourced from the local forestry operation, coming directly from the woods behind the Goetheanum.

The new system must be **climate-neutral and ecologically** exemplary. Wood is a renewable raw material. A 50-year-old tree has absorbed a great deal of carbon dioxide. This is released during combustion, but then reabsorbed through the growth of the next generation of trees — creating a closed-loop cycle.

The **heating costs** must remain financially sustainable for the Goetheanum. Installing the new heating system requires an investment of between five and six million Swiss francs. The current cost estimate stands at 5,658,000 francs. This considerable sum is attributable in equal parts to the construction measures and the heating technology itself. The building work is particularly costly due to the confined and technically demanding nature of the site, while the technical installation comprises a large boiler (700 kW) and a smaller one (300 kW). This configuration will make it possible to cover all heating demands throughout the season entirely with renewable energy from regional wood sources.

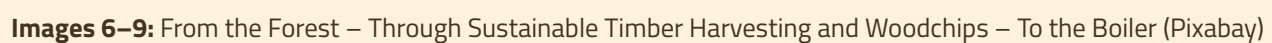
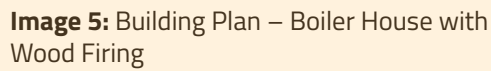
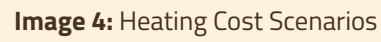
For calculating the annual heating costs, a decisive factor will be the level of capital costs for installing the heating system. In Image 3, one can see the significant increase in heating costs in recent years. These current annual costs of approximately 500,000 francs serve as a reference value for the future.

The first column in Image 4 represents these costs. The second column shows the projected annual costs if we were to join the Birstal heating network. The third column shows the projected annual costs for our project at an average interest rate of 2.25%, with depreciation over 20 years for the machinery and 40 years for the building structures. The fourth column shows the annual costs for the same investment with an average interest rate of 1% and the same depreciation periods. The graph clearly illustrates how strongly capital costs will influence the price of warmth at the Goetheanum. And here, we are counting on your involvement and support. You can help make this goal a reality. On page 7, you will find detailed information on how you can contribute to financing the new heating system through various forms of credit.

Image 2: Heizhaus (Boiler House)



### Image 3: Energy Costs 2015–2024



# Contribute to the Research Fund through Gift Money

We invite you to consider whether you might be able to contribute a regular monthly amount of 20, 40, 60, 80, or 100 euros – depending on your financial circumstances. If many members of the Society and the School were to do this, the doubling of the research budget by an additional 1.2 million euros per year would be achievable. This corresponds to 100,000 euros per month (see graphic below).

**Please consider setting up a standing order today via your postal or bank account for a regular monthly contribution. Alternatively, you may choose to make a larger one-off donation to support the launch of this initiative. Warmest thanks!**

## Donation Account for Germany and the Euro Zone

Donations within Germany are tax-deductible and will be formally acknowledged by the country society in Germany following the end of the calendar year.

Allgemeine Anthroposophische Gesellschaft  
Postfach, 4143 Dornach/Schweiz  
GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG, Bochum  
IBAN: DE53 4306 0967 0000 9881 00  
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

**Image 10:** Graphic Showing Monthly Standing Contributions from 2,000 Members in Five Variants

**A possible structure for the research fund would be based on monthly contributions from (in this example) 2,000 members, which would amount to a total annual sum of 1.2 million euros.**



**Bild 11:** The Goetheanum in summer

## Contribute to the Financing of the Heating System through Loan Money

There are two ways you can contribute from Germany or the euro zone to the financing of the Goetheanum's ecological heating system.

### Option 1: Five-Year Loan for the Period 2025 to 2030

If you choose the "Five-Year Loan" option (2025–2030), you will receive a straightforward loan agreement with the General Anthroposophical Society, Dornach/Switzerland, for the financing of the Goetheanum heating system. This option is open to members and friends with a minimum amount of €10,000. The loan may be interest-free or bear annual interest at a rate of 0.5 percent or 1 percent. Accordingly, upon maturity, a sum of €250 or €500 will be paid out for a loan of €10,000. Early repayment is only possible in cases of personal emergency, with a notice period of three months.

### Option 2: Conditional Gifts with Right of Revocation

Another possibility would be for you to make a portion of your personal reserve funds available to the Goetheanum for the construction of the heating system. In this case, you would receive an agreement with the General Anthroposophical Society concerning a conditional gift upon death, with a lifelong right of revocation. Should you encounter personal financial hardship, you may revoke the gift in writing at any time, without the need to provide justification, observing a notice period of three months. This right expires upon your death, at which point the gift is transferred in full to the Goetheanum. This form of financing is available for amounts of €5,000 or more.

***To request a draft contract for either of the two options, please contact our Executive Council Secretariat:***

***Telephone:*** +41 61 706 42 42

***Email:*** [vorstandssekretariat@goetheanum.ch](mailto:vorstandssekretariat@goetheanum.ch)

### Overall Financing

The more low-interest loan money that can be made available by members and friends of the Goetheanum, the more favourably the necessary warmth can be produced for the Goetheanum. Our aim is to cover at least 60% of the total investment sum of 5 to 6 million CHF (approximately 3.3 million francs) by this means. For the remaining amount, bank financing is available to us.

Swiss Treasury Bonds	CHF 2 million
Swiss Trust Loans	CHF 1 million
Construction Notes and Interest-Free Loans	CHF 1 million
Bank Financing (Switzerland)	CHF 1.66 million
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>CHF 5.66 million</b>

**If you have any further questions, please contact the Executive Council Secretariat:**

**General Anthroposophical Society**

Rütliweg 45, CH-4143 Dornach

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**The very existence of the Goetheanum is a testament to the dedication of generations of individuals who,** through voluntary service, donations, and collaboration, have contributed with generosity and commitment. All were inspired by the shared striving to expand knowledge and to bring forth innovation in practical fields of life out of the spiritual. The School of Spiritual Science has come into being through both great and modest gifts. This history continues today – and we are deeply grateful to carry it forward together with you.



**Goetheanum Leadership and Executive Council, Summer Retreat, September 2024, Mont Sainte-Odile, France (from left to right):** Eduardo Rincón, Vesna Forštnerič Lesjak, Peter Selg, Philipp Reubke, Christiane Haid, Oliver Conradt, Jan Göschel, Gerald Häfner, Justus Wittich, Marion Debus, Constanza Kaliks. Knieend: Ueli Hurter, Nathaniel Williams, Karin Michael, Adam Blanning, Matthias Rang and Stefan Hasler.