

Founding Statute

of the Anthroposophical Society from 1923

The Anthroposophical Society is to be an association of people who wish to cultivate the soul life in the individual human being and in human society on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.

The foundation of this Society is formed by the personalities who gathered at the Goetheanum in Dornach during the Christmas season of 1923, both the individuals and the groups who allowed themselves to be represented. They are imbued with the view that there is at present a real science of the spiritual world which has been worked out for many years and in important parts already published, and that the present civilisation lacks the cultivation of such a science. The Anthroposophical Society should have this cultivation as its task. It will try to solve this task in such a way that it makes the anthroposophical spiritual science cultivated at the Goetheanum in Dornach, with its results for brotherhood in human coexistence, for moral and religious as well as for artistic and general spiritual life in the human being, the centre of its endeavours. ¹

The personalities gathered in Dornach as the foundation of the Society recognise with approval the view of the Goetheanum leadership represented by the Executive Council formed at the founding meeting with regard to the following: "Anthroposophy cultivated at the Goetheanum leads to results which can serve as a stimulus for the spiritual life of every human being without distinction of nation, class or religion. They can lead to a social life truly built on brotherly love. Their appropriation as a basis for life is not bound to a scientific level of education, but only to the unbiased human being. However, their research and the proper evaluation of their research results are subject to spiritual-scientific training, which is to be acquired gradually. These results are in their way as exact as the results of true natural science. If they attain general recognition in the same way as these, they will bring about the same progress as these in all fields of life, not only in the spiritual but also in the practical field."

The Anthroposophical Society is not a secret society, but a thoroughly public one. Anyone can become a member, without distinction of nation, class, religion, scientific or artistic conviction, who sees something justified in the existence of such an institution as the Goetheanum in Dornach as a free university for spiritual science. The Society rejects any sectarian endeavour. It does not regard politics as within its remit.

The Anthroposophical Society sees a centre of its activity in the School of Spiritual Science in Dornach. This will consist of three classes. Members of the Society will be admitted to the School on application after they have been members for a period to be determined by the leadership of the Goetheanum. They will then be admitted to the first class of the School of Spiritual Science. Admission to the second or third Class takes place when the applicants are found suitable by the Goetheanum Council.

Every member of the Anthroposophical Society has the right to attend all lectures, other performances and meetings organised by the Society under the conditions to be announced by the Executive Council.

The establishment of the School of Spiritual Science shall initially be the responsibility of Rudolf Steiner, who shall appoint his staff and any successor.

All publications of the Society will be public in the manner of those of other public societies. ² The publications of the School of Spiritual Science will not make an exception to this publicity; however, the management of the School claims to deny from the outset the legitimacy of any judgement on these writings that is not based on the training from which they have emerged. In this sense, it will not grant justification to any judgement that is not based on corresponding preliminary studies, as is also customary in the recognised scientific world. For this reason the writings of the School of Spiritual Science will bear the following note: "Printed as a manuscript for the members of the School of Spiritual

¹ The Anthroposophical Society follows on from the Anthroposophical Society founded in 1912, but wishes to create an independent starting point for the aims established at that time, corresponding to the true spirit of the present.

² Publicly, the conditions under which one comes to the training have also been described and will continue to be published.

Science, Goetheanum Class.... printed. No competent judgement is conceded for the writings to anyone who has not acquired the prior knowledge asserted by this School through it or in a manner recognised by itself as equivalent. Other judgements are rejected in so far as the authors of the corresponding writings do not enter into any discussion of the same."

The aim of the Anthroposophical Society will be the promotion of research in the spiritual field, that of the School of Spiritual Science this research itself. Dogmatism in any field shall be excluded from the Anthroposophical Society.

The Anthroposophical Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year at the Goetheanum, at which a full report shall be given by the Executive Council. The agenda for this meeting shall be announced by the Vorstand with the invitation to all members six weeks before the meeting. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Executive Committee and the agenda set for them. It shall send the invitations to the members three weeks in advance. Motions from individual members or groups of such members shall be sent one week before the meeting.

Members may join together in smaller or larger groups in any local or specialist field. The Anthroposophical Society has its seat at the Goetheanum. From there the Executive Council shall bring to the members or groups of members what it considers to be the task of the Society. It communicates with the functionaries elected or appointed by the individual groups. The individual groups shall take care of the admission of members; however, the confirmations of admission shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in Dornach and signed by the latter in confidence in the group officers. In general, every member should join a group; only those who find it quite impossible to be admitted to a group should have themselves admitted as a member in Dornach.

The membership fee is determined by the individual groups; but each group has to pay 15 francs for each of its members to the central administration at the Goetheanum.³

Each working group forms its own statutes; only these should not contradict the statutes of the Anthroposophical Society.

The organ of the Society is the weekly journal "Das Goetheanum", which for this purpose will be provided with a supplement containing the official communications of the Society. This enlarged edition will be distributed only to members of the Anthroposophical Society.

Founding Board

First Chairman: Dr Rudolf Steiner

Second Chairman: Albert Steffen

Secretary: Dr. Ita Wegman

Assessors: Marie Steiner, Dr. Elisabeth Vreede Secretary

Treasurer: Dr. Guenther Wachsmuth

³ Membership fee by resolution of the General Assembly at Easter 1990 Fr 125.- per calendar year for members affiliated to National Societies, Branches or Groups. Fr. 300.- per calendar year for individual members directly affiliated to Dornach.