

## **Time to review Statute 11?**

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Ever since 'karma began to reign' and the Anthroposophical Society was thrown into disorder, there have been many events through which this chaos has played out. Are these unseen, and not so unseen, battles complete? Has every stream had its say? Have we now understood what Rudolf Steiner had in mind, not only for the 'micro' case of the Anthroposophical Society itself, but for the wider 'macro' social situation humanity finds itself in?

### *The relevance of groups*

I think I see how things stand from within the German language and Swiss rights life, those being the original con-text of the Christmas Conference 1923/24. But to me, and I suspect many members habituated to the English language and English rights life and its derivatives, the way things stand does not yet 'sing' or find an echo.

I would like to suggest a re-view of paragraph 11 of the Founding Statute: 'Members may join together in smaller or larger groups on any basis of locality or working field.' Unless understood as a group based on location, this makes no mention of what are increasingly now called Country Groups (with their Representatives). Yet this would allow the other types of groups (whether local or working field) to be subsets of a country group and not worldwide groups.

This would also counter to-day's tendency (abetted by technology) towards a society based in Dornach with a worldwide direct membership, a tendency that risks rendering groups as such almost meaningless, leading to a situation in which the spiritual world can hardly breathe.

How interesting it would be, therefore, if paragraph 11 were modified by one word to say: 'Members may join together in smaller or larger groups on any basis of **country**, locality or working field.' I had this in mind when, for several reasons, in *Anthroposophy Worldwide* 9/2022, I suggested every kind of group should imagine starting again in the Christmas Conference before the Society and Bau Verein became amalgamated.

### *A question of familiarity*

First, so that every member could experience afresh the fact and nature of a free association dedicated to anthroposophy *before* it becomes involved in or impacted by real and/or financial assets (buildings and capital sums) other than those needed for its direct needs.

Second, through the medium of one's immediate group, this would enable all members of the Society worldwide, to experience the challenges that often arise at the Goetheanum, but from which most members are remote, not only in terms of proximity, but informationally. One is so often asked to have a view on matters with which many, if not most, members do not have any direct familiarity.

Third, this is not a problem that can be solved by postal or online attendance at Goetheanum AGMs, but one can experience the same dynamics 'hologrammatically', as it were, through the medium of one's own AGM, close to where one is active and so also familiar.

### *Assessing current arrangements*

Fourth, I would advocate re-visiting the roles and dynamics between mission (Country Representative), financing (Treasurer) and overall responsibility (Council), for in this way, too, one might be able to sense the merits of Rudolf Steiner's original ideas concerning the Goetheanum Leadership and the enlarged Council, and how the School of Spiritual Science is universal while the Anthroposophical Society is, as it were, terrestrial. There is also the question of whether today's World Goetheanum Association is the same as that envisaged by Herr Emmanuel Josef van Leer or whether that is a task still to be taken up.

In such ways, one could assess and review the merits and workings of our current arrangements. For here I confess to a deep concern that the Anthroposophical Society is being conceived and incorporated increasingly as if it were an organization rather than an organism. As regards the Christmas Conference, to quote the poet Alfred Tennyson, this may prove to be a 'little rift within the lute that by and by its music makes mute.'