

Nineteen Questions for a General Secretary

May 2023

1. How do you understand the role of 'General Secretary' in the sense used in the Anthroposophical Society compared to the Theosophical Society or the Communist Party or a Trade Union?
2. In the Christmas Conference, where the Anthroposophical Society was given a new ground, Rudolf Steiner spoke of the General Secretaries on pp. 64, 113-115. How do you evaluate yourself in those terms?
3. Insofar as the General Secretary would represent the world view of the Vorstand of the General Anthroposophical Society when at home, and provide an insight into the spiritual life of [country name] when 'at' the Goetheanum, what do you see as the critical and potentially the most fruitful points or moments for positive development in anthroposophical terms?
4. Would you welcome a chairperson (Latin: president) in the Anthroposophical Society in [country name]?
5. How do you square what 'leadership' means in terms of [country name] spiritual life and 'leadership' as described by Steiner at the Christmas Conference? See, for example, pp. 58, 59, 60, 88, 118, 128, 129, 134, 135, 148 and 163!
6. In the sense that the primary purpose of becoming a member of the School of Spiritual Science is to 'represent the anthroposophical cause' in our times, do you see the School as the locus of your work and how does this manifest? Meaning, when people meet you or your work do they sense it has a particular background? And do they respect and/or enquire into this?
7. Do you think the way the Society is financed matters spiritually? Insofar as you are aware of them, do you resonate with the Treasurers' Guidelines adopted by the Country Societies in 2019?
8. How do you see the office of General Secretary being funded?
9. What public persona do you envisage for the Anthroposophical Society in your country?
10. Is there a book or books, or a verse, that describes how [country name] is linked to the missions of folk souls?
11. How do things stand today in relation to your country's mission?
12. What do you understand the role of the Anthroposophical Society to be in the wider anthroposophical movement and, indeed, in your country's social life generally?
13. Is the Anthroposophical Society in [country name] fulfilling that role in your view? How so? How not so?
14. How widely is your perception of these things shared?
15. When Steiner is critiqued, do you complain, explain, or keep your counsel?
16. As well as having a specific focus, are you able to have a catholic view of the anthroposophical movement in the [country name]?
17. Can you articulate your vision, concerns and sense of the anthroposophical future in the [country name] without recourse to your own direct professional interests?
18. Do you have the inner and outer space for the role?
19. Diversity, ethnicity, self-identification, etc. Does this suffice?

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.