

## **Exclusion of LIVING THE CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE Members from the General Anthroposophical Society Being Petitioned by Swiss Society**

On November 16, 2006, the Swiss Anthroposophical Society sent out a petition to its members requesting the signatures of those who wish all LIVING THE CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE (GELEBTE WEIHNACHTSTAGUNG) members to be excluded from the world Society. It was signed by Dominique Pyott and Viktor Denzler, the initiators of the action, the new Swiss general secretary, Esther Gerster, and Franz Ackermann, the head of the Swiss Society (*Vorsitzender*). The complaints of three Swiss branch representatives had led to an October delegates' meeting, at which 50 of the 53 attendees asked that this effort be undertaken.

The petition begins by stating that delegates are already, at this early date, apprehensive about the LCC's "burdensome and disturbing" conduct at the next general members' meeting in March of 2007. To justify excluding them, they say that, for over a decade now, these members have been "impeding the progress" of meetings, speaking "longer than average", and recently speaking so much that other members are down-right "pushed against the wall" while the LCC "forces" on the meeting topics "unwanted" by the majority. The LCC is likened to a small, "power-hungry" "extremist political party" interested only in criticizing those in charge. In public life, the petition continues, such small extremist groups are quickly dealt with by opposing parties. What will the Anthroposophists do? How long will they "allow these people to wield the scepter"? To go on presenting "heaps of motions" (*haufenweise Anträge*) and "speaking endlessly"? To cede to the LCC "the right to decide what, in our society, should be preserved and what should not"? (the LCC calls itself the society "for the *Preservation* of the General Anthroposophical Society of 1923"). Thus, the bringers of the petition recommend excluding all LCC members from the General Anthroposophical Society.

Meanwhile, there is a lawsuit in progress, and LCC members are very unlikely to be expelled before it is settled, if at all.

Yet it is important that as many members as possible take note of this initiative, of the emotion-laden, almost inflammatory, phrases and images, and complete lack of information about the actual issues, the LCC's actual concerns, without which such a decision cannot possibly be made. Anthroposophists are here appealed to, on an almost primitive level, to take forceful action against alleged, suggested, tyrants. Yet ours is an *Erkenntnisgesellschaft*, a society in which we should base our views and actions on insight, on careful consideration of the facts and issues.

It is important to note that at no time have members of the LCC ever forced their view on a members' meeting. They have simply asked for their right – every member's right – to have their motions heard, discussed, and voted on, one of the rights currently being disregarded by the Executive Council. A vote can freely go either up or down. You are not forcing members when you are giving them an opportunity to vote.

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