



Pastoral medical conference

*Working together in pastoral medicine
in the encounter with suicide and assisted suicide
(for priests and physicians)*

2 and 3 June 2018
at the Goetheanum in Dornach

Goetheanum

Dear Colleagues,

The subjects of “suicide” and “assisted suicide” are of singular importance in the present time and equally stand at the centre of Rudolf Steiner’s pastoral medical course. When is it suicide, when should someone killing themselves not be seen as an actual suicide, as illustrated using the example of Ferdinand Raimund? In terms of our destiny, what are the consequences of suicide and the various forms of actively putting an end to our lives up to and including inducing death through fasting? But what, also, are the consequences of being a participant in measures to end life? Is the autonomy of a person respected through such measures or, on the contrary, is it undermined through the intervention to bring about death?

At the end of life, people are often torn between a longing for death and fear of death. Sometimes death is intensively longed for, frequently with reference to the “apparent meaninglessness” of the present phase of life. On the other hand, we know patients who suffer from considerable fear of dying and death. Both situations in which patients find themselves challenge us as priests and physicians. How can we work together in the face of these challenges? Rudolf Steiner presented to medicine the basic ethical stance that we should “deny” ourselves – right to the end – the thought of the patient dying. Here we find an expression of the profound connection with the healing forces and at the same time the respect for the intent of destiny which alone can decide on the time when death occurs. What role does this ethic of Anthroposophic Medicine play in the work together between priest and physician?

We intend to concern ourselves with these current questions at this year’s pastoral medical conference and view them against the background of anthroposophical pastoral medicine.

We look forward to productive work together!

Matthias Girke and Georg Soldner

Saturday, 2 June

09.00–10.30

Welcome

G. Soldner / V. von Behr

Lecture

Suicide - assisted

suicide - suicide attack

Questions of destiny against the background
of responsibility and freedom?

T. Bonek / M. Girke

10.30–11.00 Coffeebreak

11.00–12.30

Discussion

Karmic consequences of suicide

Discussion introduced by M. Debus

followed by

Work in small groups

on the 6th lecture

12.30–14.30 Lunch break

14.30–16.00

Discussion groups

16.00–16.30 Coffeebreak

16.30–18.00

Plenary session

Moderator V. von Behr

18.00–19.30 Evening break

19.30–20.30

14th class lesson (in German only)

M. Girke

– or –

Introduction to the School of Spiritual Science

M. Debus

Sunday, 3 June

08.30–09.30

Act of Consecration of Man

09.30–10.00 Coffeebreak

10.00–10.45

The pastoral medical mantra and the Foundation Stone Meditation

Introduction by T. Bonek

followed by discussion

10.45–11.00 Break

11.00–12.30

Help in dealing with suicide and the longing for death

Moderator G. Soldner

12.30–13.00

Review and outlook, perspectives of pastoral medical work

V. von Behr / M. Girke

*Lectures, events and plenary sessions held in
German. Translation in English on request.*

– Subject to change –

Conference discussion groups

1. The action of the I in dying – *M. Debus / G. Schaar*
2. Enabling responsibility – *M. Merckens / S. Lorenz*
3. Freedom, responsibility and conscience – *T. Bonek / G. Soldner*
4. True feeling – development of the feelings – *R. Dzidzaria*
5. Spirit mindfulness and destiny – *J. Schuur / M. Girke*
6. Uniting our own I with the cosmic I – *U. Goebel / M. Karutz*

Translation

Please send us an email (francois.bonhote@medsektion-goetheanum.ch) by 1 May 2018 if you require translation into English. If a sufficient number of people register an interest, we will organise an interpreter.

Registration

Using the attached form, please send your registration if possible by 19 May 2018 to the following address by email, fax or letter:

Goetheanum Empfang, Postfach, 4143 Dornach, Switzerland
Tel +41 61 706 44 44 | Fax +41 61 706 44 46 | tickets@goetheanum.org
Online registration at: <https://www.goetheanum.org/8898.html>

Donations

To support the “Pastoral Medicine” conference
(not for the remittance of the conference fee).

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