BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
Membership Committee Report
March 7, 2010

Summary: Recommendations to the BTSA Board of Directors are:

1. Membership dues in 2010 should be $100
2. Create a policy that permits the BTSA to have Student Members
3. Put a form in the Hikari to allow interested individuals outside southern Alberta to receive the Hikari and other announcement by email.
4. Disband the Membership Committee

- There is a consensus that membership in the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (BTSA) should be $100.
- A licensing expert at Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission advised that the BTSA could establish categories of membership without changing the by-laws. However, these categories of membership would not have the benefits of membership; namely the right to sit on the board of directors, voting privileges, automatic membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and freedom to use the BTSA facility.
- An attempt by the BTSA to acquire new members could be accomplished by a few interested individuals devoting their efforts to strategically identifying non-members and carefully approaching them to determine if they would be interested in joining. It was agreed that we don't want to proselytize so approaching members has to be done with sensitivity. It has been expressed that a survey should be conducted of members to determine if actively increasing membership is something that should be pursued.
- There is some interest in having a membership category called Student open to students enrolled in secondary or post-secondary learning institutions. This could either be free or entail a modest fee and would give the student a sense of belonging. The Student would not enjoy the aforementioned benefits of membership.
- An Associate category has been suggested without actually creating it in the by-laws. A definition of Associate is for individuals who live outside of southern Alberta and who would like to maintain contact with the BTSA. This could be accomplished by putting a form in the Hikari that would result in the person being included on the email list for the Hikari and for other emails announcing BTSA activities.
- It is recommended that the Membership Committee disband because the tasks referred to in the Terms of Reference can be more easily performed by the Executive Committee. If a program to increase membership is implemented then it should be implemented by a new committee in conjunction with a revised Marketing Plan. This would allow those with expertise in this area to focus their efforts in this area.

David Major
Chair, Membership Committee