Religious Committee Report – March 7, 2010 – Annual General Meeting

The Religious Committee is a committee of the BTSA established by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on September 10, 2008. The terms of reference were defined on October 8, 2008 and accepted on November 13, 2008.

The Religious Committee exists to coordinate BTSA Religious matters and provide a liaison between the Sangha, the minister and the Board of Directors regarding religious programs.

The Religious Committee includes at least one elected member of the board and the minister. Current members include: Renae Barlow (Chair), Sensei Izumi (Advisor), Jim Tsukishima, Lorita Ichikawa, Mac Nishiyama, Reyko Nishiyama and Kimie Sudo.

Goals and Progress Notes:

1) **Create new member orientation procedures –** Completed
   a. Create information package – available in binder at front foyer
   b. Assign members to greet newcomers and act as a resource for their first visit (ongoing)

2) Service Schedule with Rev. Izumi - Ongoing
   a. Scheduling of chair rotation along with Audio assistance.

3) Develop a feedback mechanism – Not Yet Started
   a. for newcomers to respond to all religious programs
   b. For Sangha members to respond to all religious programs

4) **Regular Study Group** – Completed – and Ongoing
   a. Sunday morning chanting starting at 9:40 with study group meeting before service

5) **Monthly Speaker Series – In progress**
   a. Plans to implement a monthly speaker series (Sunday afternoons or an evening during the week)

Joint Religious/Funeral Committee Event

The Funeral Fair held at the temple of Saturday October 24th was a resounding success. We had 13 exhibitors including Generations Funeral Home as our lunch sponsor (catered by Carmichael's) and Southern Monument as our refreshment break sponsor. There were door prizes galore including beautiful gift baskets and a major door prize donated by Cornerstones Funeral Home for a trip for 2 to Edmonton with Integra Air valued at over $1000!

The Funeral Fair received great publicity with an article in the Sun Times on the Wednesday before the event followed up by an article on the day after in the Lethbridge Herald with a picture of our own Betty Taniguchi and one of our Exhibitors from Remco Memorials! Everyone who participated encouraged us to have another one next year.

The exhibitor feedback was very positive and all indicated they would like to return for next year. Follow up letters were rec'd from the Office of the Public Guardian thanking us for putting on the funeral fair and another letter was rec'd from Cornerstone Funeral Home reiterating how welcome and included they felt at the Funeral Fair even though they were a last minute entry. MOTION: Move that the Religious Committee Report be adopted as presented.

Moved by _____ second by_____

Carried: Yes/No.

Respectfully Submitted:
Renae Barlow, Chair
Religious Committee