

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple

2025 Survey Results

The following report shows graphical, numerical, and direct comments from responses to the 2025 Sangha Survey questions. There were 31 total responses to the survey, which was available to all those in the TSDBT community between the end of November 2025 and January 4, 2026. The survey was advertised in the weekly email, the annual membership request letters, and on the website. Paper copies were available by requests; there were no requests. One comment was removed from the last question because it only contained a name with no other information. Data has been consolidated as much as possible to give an overall picture of responses without identifying information. This survey provides a baseline from which TSDBT can conduct future surveys and track progress over time.

Responses to the survey indicate an overall positive view of TSDBT, with many pointing out improvement in communications and the Dharma School over the last few years. Dissatisfaction was indicated in how people new to TDSBT are welcomed and integrated into the sangha. There were also several concerns as to weekly ministerial assignments and ministerial presence at TSDBT events.

Survey results indicate ongoing confusion around the roles and responsibilities of ministers, staff, and Board Members. This is also an issue that has been discussed internally amongst these groups. Priority should be placed upon clearly defining these roles, job descriptions, and expectations of all TSDBT staff and leadership in order to create accountability and smoother operations.

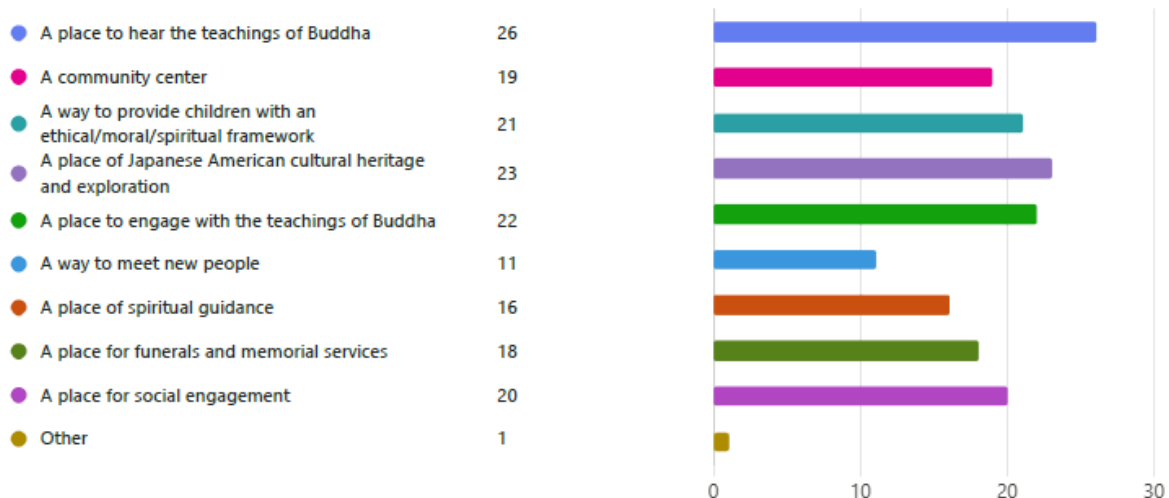
The following are actions that have already been taken to address concerns raised in this survey:

- To address ministerial assignment questions, we have added the location of ministers each week in the weekly email service schedule. On our General Monthly Schedule, found on the website and in our weekly email, we also added ministerial assignments. Hopefully, this will help with event planning and setting expectations as to which minister(s) will be present for events. For example, Rev. Hayashi will always be at Longmont Buddhist Temple on the fourth Sunday of the month (MOU between TSDBT and Longmont BT). The only Sundays that both ministers will be present at the Denver temple are the 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Sundays of the month.

- The weekly email format has been updated to be more read-able and responsive to the device where they are seen. The new format should also make it easier to print for those who wish to hold a hard copy.

Q1 What is the temple to you? (Select all that apply)

1. What is the temple to you? (Select all that apply)



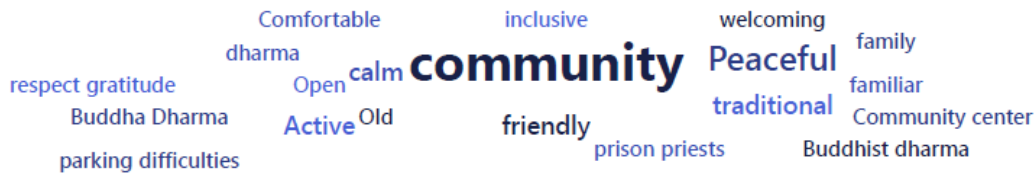
Q2 If you selected "Other", please explain:

- "While social engagement or meeting new people can is good I primarily look to engage Buddhism at Buddhist temple. Engage Buddhism with other people, yes.
- You guys do online Buddhist study thing. I am looking for in-person hybrid. I would still attend online sometimes. But what is the point of living in Denver to do things only online.
- Even if I was going to attend your Buddhist study, I probably wouldn't make every one (though I do have good attendance in practice).
- I don't know what you are studying, and I don't personally interpret non-descript online-exclusive events as a means of furthering engagement with anything other than the internet, unless I was using it as a stand-in or to look for Buddhist engagement offline."
- Martial Arts
- safe place from racial/religious prejudice
- I like singing and dancing, the Bonbu Stories event was great.

Q3 What three words would you use to describe our temple?

- Active, active, active
- Buddhist dharma sangha
- Open, friendly, enlightening
- Peaceful, happy, engaging.
- community, service-oriented, family
- Comfortable, aging, solid
- Peaceful, calm, sacred
- Old, welcoming, improving
- active, family, community
- Needed Declining Hopeful
- familiar, friendly, community
- Familiar, existing, evolving.
- Community center
- traditional, community, needs renewal
- Vibrant, growing, and active
- Serene; cordial; unkempt
- Somewhat Friendly, diverse, parking difficulties
- Comfortable, peaceful, foundational
- Central, Traditional, Spunky
- Buddha Dharma Sangha
- sunday prison priests
- Historical. Necessary. Complex.
- Calm, accepting, peaceful
- exclusionary, hypocritical, sad
- inclusive, generational, traditional
- Warm, Open, Compasionate
- Old and worn
- tradition respect gratitude
- community, welcoming, cultural
- Comforting
- Calm, inclusive and honest.

6 respondents (19%) answered community for this question.



Q4 What do you most enjoy about attending services here?

- I attend via zoom.
- Dharma talks
- Dharma talks and chanting
- Receiving the teachings and feeling so much inner peace.
- Seeing all of the different generations come together!
- Having a place for my kids to learn the teachings. Being surrounded by friends.
- Calm
- The dharma talks
- Hearing the dharma and seeing families
- Hearing sermons from the senseis, chanting, socializing
- seeing friends from the community
- I appreciate being in a space that Japanese Americans have frequented for generations to find community in a world where assimilation is the expectation.
- See our friends
- seeing the young children
- Being part of a vital and caring community. Very active and love that it is multi-generational and multilingual.
- "comeraderie"
- Visiting new and old friends
- Hearing the Dharma
- "Learning about/hearing the Dharma
- Socializing and being in community"
- I have a long history with the temple. I enjoy connecting with friends.
- "I have only visited once and online thing.
- I am not always a morning person. Even if I make a morning, I don't know that there's any other means of engaging your temple or Buddhism apart from non-descript online meeting, which leaves other sundays I wouldn't usually make."

- I enjoy connecting with Buddhist teachings.
- I enjoy the sermon portion (I'm not sure what this is called in Buddhism). I very much enjoy the meditation sessions provided once a month also.
- Jodo Shinshu
- The Dharma message

Q5 Do you know the mission of the temple?

- Yes: 13 (42%)
- No: 18 (58%)

Q6 What do you think the temple's mission is/should be? (optional)

- To be engaging not only with the community but with the in person and Online members. To bring the Dharma to everyone.
- To provide the teachings of the Buddha to anyone willing to listen and absorb it.
- To spread Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings and share our Japanese culture by being an active participant in the larger Denver community.
- Centered on building community around the teachings of the Buddha. That's what should make us different than any other place.
- sharing teachings of the buddha and creating an inclusive community
- N/A, I like the mission.
- Pass on the teaching of the Buddha
- A place to learn about the teachings of Shakamuni and to grow as a person by trying to practice the teachings.
- Provide a safe space for the old and new members.
- The mission of Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple is to provide the community with resources to learn and practice the teachings of Buddha, passed through time and cultures, to navigate life with self-reflection and awareness in our interconnected and evolving society.
- Jodo Shinshu
- To spread Buddhism while honoring the history of the temple and those who helped to make it what it is today - Okagesama de
- Maintain and grow the Jodo Shinshu experience and be open to all potential new members.
- A place to learn about Buddha's teachings and celebrate Japanese culture

- Community gathering place, learning the teachings
- To spread the Buddha Dharma to modern laypeople, sharing the wisdom and compassion of Amida and Nembutsu for all interconnected beings to be free from suffering through enlightenment.

Q7 Please select the best option in response to the following statements.

7. Please select the best option in response to the following statements.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree

The temple provides me with opportunities for spiritual growth.

The temple is sensitive to the needs of its members.

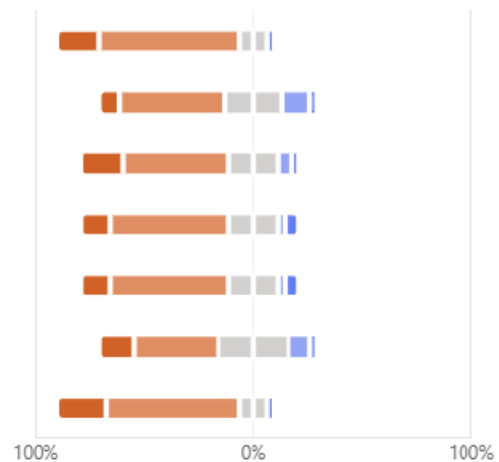
I am satisfied as a member of the temple.

The temple welcomes new members and guests.

I feel connected with and supported by temple leaders.

I am aware of what's happening at our temple.

I would invite a friend or someone unfamiliar with the temple to join us.

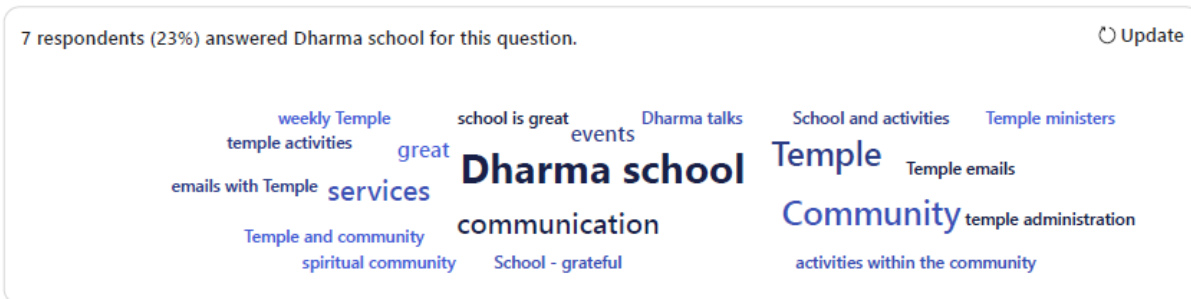


Q8 What is going well at the temple?

- On line member really can't say.
- Community outreach.
- I appreciate the friendliness as well as the thoughtfulness and attention to detail.
- So many great activities within the community and great Temple ministers.
- Dharma school - growing!
- The annual events and bringing together the existing Sangha
- I don't know
- I think things have really improved over the last year or two. I have been coming for many years and when I first started it seemed the church didn't even know when services were, there was poor communication, and no one seemed to bother. It no longer seems like everything is "insiders knowledge"; the communications now not only tell you what is coming up (clearly) with modern ways to engage, but also provides context about what the events are and why they are important/significant. This all makes being a member easier.

- I also appreciate that there seems to be more structure around the teachings; like the kids have “themes” of the month and you can hear from them they understand the themes stronger now. Previously, it felt like talks were sometimes made up on the spot.
- Dharma School is active and growing.
- Dharma talks, cultural groups, some of the fundrisers
- modernized - live broadcast, rev diana,
- I appreciate that it seems like there have been efforts to expand the offerings at the temple for deeper connection to the teachings of Buddha (Ex: Buddhist study classes, tea+chat). I also appreciate the revamping of the website and bringing in fresh perspectives like Bonbu Stories. The two bingo events this year were also wonderful demonstrations of community. Reverend Diana is also always a delight.
- Don't know as I do not attend often.
- Interfaith service was well attended. Stability in the reverend situation.
- Dharma school, services, Shinran group- Japanese speaking group, weekly Temple emails with Temple and community news.
- I am impressed with all of the opportunities we have to take classes or attend seminars, both locally and through the BCA. Although very time-consuming, maybe some of them could be encouraged to attend either in person or through Zoom. Maybe our Temple could hold sessions locally to watch together to discuss.
- The weekly updates provided with the newsletter via internet
- Communication has improved. Introduction of new customs and processes without completely throwing out the old,
- Dharma school. Stevie is a great superintendent. However we need more parent participation to get more teachers.
- I wouldn't know
- That there seems to be a will to stay in the current location and not move for money.
- Community events, Weekly services
- Jodo Shinshu
- Excellent communication from the temple administration!
- Open arms to new and existing members.
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- Dharma School - grateful for the teachers and parents who support Dharma School and activities.
- Administrative Assistant - Alison has made a huge difference with organization and management of temple activities, website, and communication.
- Communication is going well. Dharma school is great.

- Services, dharma school, activities
- The collaboration for Metro Caring from the Denver spiritual community this thanksgiving was an important showing of dana for our neighbors. The dinner with the Multicultural Mosaic folks was great.



Q9 How can the temple improve?

- Be more connected with online members and proactive with the community, not only the downtown area but others parts of the city. I would like to read how the temple engages in dialogue/listening meetings with the community. This would be through involvement with the colleges, community centers etc.
- ??
- I often attend via Zoom. Occasionally the sound system has a few problems.
- Ensure the people who have been around a long time are more engaging with the new people. Many times new people are left alone and might not feel as welcomed as they should be. Board members should be the ones taking the lead on this, and they don't.
- Nothing I can think of right now
- We could do more with actively growing the Sangha
- To be more welcoming to new people
- The guest speakers are interesting. There could be more opportunities for that I feel.
- Would like to see the head minister engaged with the sangha in activities sponsored by the Dharma School and temple. Rev. Thompson is always present at gatherings such as Aki Matsuri, Turkey Bingo, Thanksgiving service, etc.
- Denver facilities, outreach, solid plan for the future
- Better food at the socials. the spread at turkey bingo was on point though!
- While I understand that Buddhism is open to people of all backgrounds, I think it is important for the temple to more fully embrace its Japanese cultural roots. It seems like this has been something that has been tentatively worked around either because of the pressures of assimilation, efforts to not alienate non-Nikkei

membership and attempts to market to broader demographics. However, I think that our Japanese roots is what makes our temple special and in today's economic/social/political/spiritual climate, folks are hungry for authenticity and deep connection.

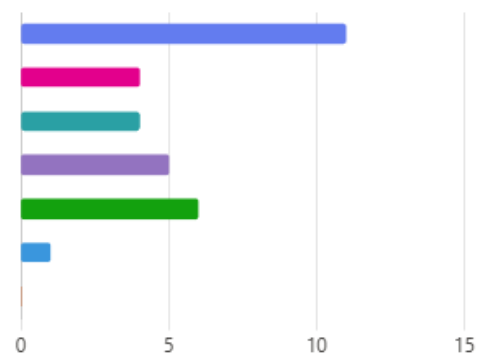
- Haven't kept up.
- More integration of the newer temple goers (don't know if they are members or not) with the older traditional members/families
- Communicate ways people can donate and support the temple.
- Although membership is not "required" to attend services and other activities, the benefits of becoming a member can be expressed or encouraged either verbally or in writing. A small booklet stating the benefits of being a member would encourage those who participate to become members.*
- With social media, our Temple should advertise our services and activities more to promote attendance before the above can be addressed with current "non-members".
- *For attendees who cannot afford membership, one should be able to qualify as a "member" by assisting The Temple with physical duties regularly, i.e., housekeeping duties, assists the office with clerical duties, etc.
- PARKING!!!
- Continue its efforts to include new people
- I think the Reverend Hayashi is not involved with the Sangha. It would be nice to see him at more functions. I was dissapointed that he was not at the Thanksgiving inter-faith service.
- The mission of Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple is to provide the community with resources to learn and practice the teachings of Buddha, passed through time and cultures, to navigate life with self-reflection and awareness in our interconnected and evolving society.
- There really needs to be some program or plan for young people once they graduate from YBA to keep them engaged with the temple to bridge YBA and the adults with families.
- Not sure
- Let the board do its job instead of bowing down to a couple perpetual malcontents
- There needs to be more transparency with what the minister's duties and roles. It seems like the head minister should be at more of the temple events - i.e. Interfaith Service.
- Keep all informed of the future plans of the temple; create programs that bind groups together, such as the YABA, ABA, etc.

- to be more engaged with the community at large
- Improve transparency from top down. What are there specific responsibilities among ministers and board members? Would like to see more team work from ministers, Board and Sangha. Activities/events should have more Sangha-wide involvement, and less group-specific. If more people are involved (including ministers, board and officers) in more activities, less burn-out and burden on specific groups. More involvement may lead to more commitment and greater feeling of community, and even more financial support. In regard to board and officer changes, develop a mentor-like, overlapping of years for support and easier transitions. Document events and responsibilities and take evaluations seriously. Gratitude and respect is big part of Buddhist teachings, but rarely is it expressed to the groups and individuals who are essential volunteers of the Temple.
- I would like to know more about where the ministers are every Sunday. So that we understand the commitments our ministers make to other sanghas besides Denver.
- I can't think of anything else
- I's like to see programming focused on showing young adults how they can practice dana within their neighborhood, at home and outside of the sangha. This could be through a focused group discussion or through expressing creativity through art like Bonbu Stories.

Q10 How often do you attend services at the temple (in person or via Zoom)?

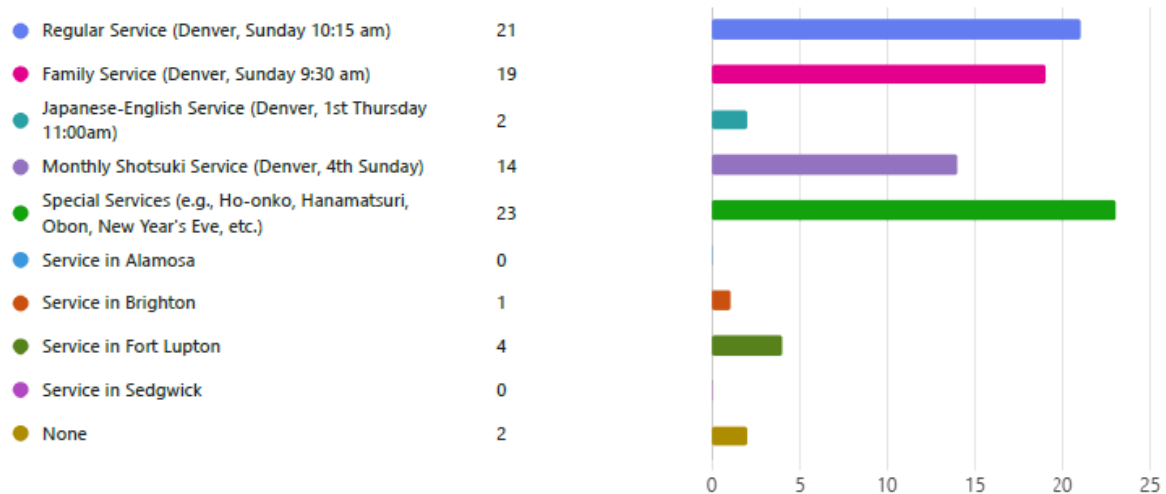
10. How often do you attend services at the temple (in person or via Zoom)?

● Every week	11
● Three times a month	4
● Twice a month	4
● Once a month	5
● A few times a year	6
● Once a year	1
● Less than once a year	0



Q11 Which service(s) do you attend? (Select all that apply)

11. Which service(s) do you attend? (Select all that apply)

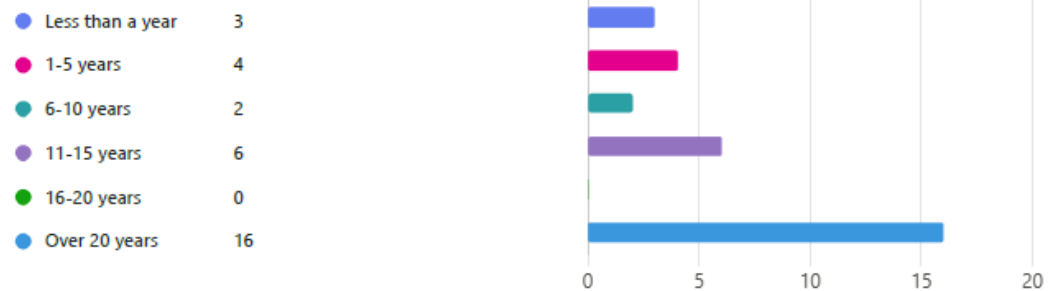


Q12 How do you attend services? (Select all that apply)

- In person: 30
- Zoom streaming: 8

Q13 How long have you been attending TSDBT?

13. How long have you been attending TSDBT?



Q14 Are you a 2025 TSDBT member (registered with a temple or sangha and committed to give member donations)?

- Yes: 26 (84%)
- No: 5 (16%)

Q15 If yes, where are you a member?

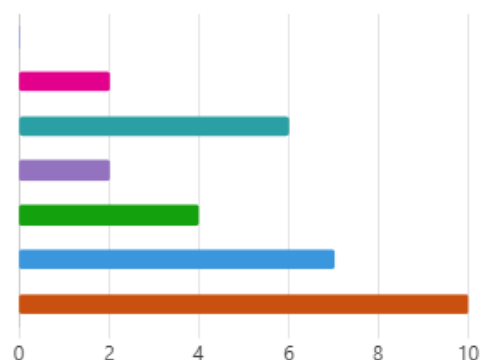
15. If yes, where are you a member?

● Denver Buddhist Temple	24
● Alamosa/La Jara Sangha	0
● Brighton Sangha	0
● Fort Lupton Buddhist Temple	2
● Sedgwick Buddhist Temple	0

Q16 What is your age group?

16. What is your age group?

● Under 20	0
● 20-29	2
● 30-39	6
● 40-49	2
● 50-59	4
● 60-69	7
● Over 70	10



Q17 Do you have a child or children who attend Dharma School at TSDBT?

- Yes: 7 (23%)
- No: 24 (77%)

Q18 Is there anything else that you would like to share with us? (optional)

- I have engaged with various Zen and other sanghas off and on for many years and never really felt at home until I begin attending the Fort Lupton and Denver temples.
- I have to commend the Temple with improving communications. Great work!

- I'm hoping to be able to attend when we get a new temple, don't know if I'm gonna make it.
- Noticing that the head minister rarely attends Temple events and activities. Not in attendance at Aki Matsuri, Turkey Bingo, Mountain States District Meeting, Thanksgiving Day Interfaith Service and that is just the last 3 months. As the head minister he is the face of our temple and expectations are that he would at least show up even for a little while. Members will not get to know him if the only time they see him is when he's on the Onijin. In my opinion, his job is to be at most Temple events and not just for the few services of the month that he conducts. I am aware that he does services in the outlying temples but Longmont shouldn't take up one of the Sundays he should be doing in Denver.
- Gratitude for finally having a staff that fulfills their responsibilities at a superior level, with respect for each other and the Sangha, as well. It is also important to see the directors participate in various positions and activities.
- Due to all of the repairs being made to the exterior of Sakura Square and the parking garage, the redevelopment must be on hold. Can we get updates on if and when the Temple will be addressed, as far as health and safety items for Dharma School classes or other uses in the basement area?
- Make the e-mail weekly updates in a printable form (pdf) not just posting in a WEB page.
- I am curious about the future of the building. Any update to the community would be appreciated.
- I don't believe I can find what I am looking for in Denver.
- I really wish there were services offered in Colorado Springs.
- No
- Stop being afraid to be Jodo Shinshu or represent the community
- Keep up, and improve on the welcoming of new potential members of the temple, and guide them through the various processes in which they may want to participate.
- I am very grateful this survey is offered, but for it to be TRULY anonymous the REQUIRED questions should have an option "prefer not to answer". Thank you.