

# San Francisco Zen Center

## Paths and Gates Questionnaire

### Third Year Gate

**The Third-Year Gate is considered a time of ‘inquiry and clarification’ of a student’s eventual training track at Zen Center-Priest Training or Advanced Lay Training. By this gate, all students must be meeting regularly with a practice leader or teacher.**

The Third-Year Gate is a time for a formal review and guidance offered by the Abbot’s Council in consultation with the Practice Committee where the student is practicing.

Some Options are:

1. Continue on Staff and prepare for future roles
2. End residency at Zen Center in 12 months
3. Spend full year at Tassajara

### CONFIDENTIAL

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please review your residential and work practice training, and then answer the following questions as completely as you can.*

1. Please describe what has been some of the most supportive factors to your practice. This could include but is not limited to teachers, sangha members, dharma offerings, volunteering, etc. What makes these support factors so meaningful to you?
  
2. Please discuss any challenges that you are having with fully engaging in the residential training offered by Zen Center. What help are you receiving or what help would you like to have? Consider this question in light of daily Zendo attendance, lectures, ceremonies, practice discussion, volunteering etc.

3. What do you see as your path at Zen Center from this time on? If you would like to continue in residence and work practice training, what would you like to learn or do at Zen Center? Please discuss this in the context of what formal practice, training, work positions, teacher-training and any other support that would be most helpful to you.
  
4. Please discuss any challenges that would restrict your ability to make an ongoing commitment to reside and engage in work practice training at Zen Center. Please explain with concrete examples such as health, partnership, sangha, finances, and so on.

*Please, if possible, type all of your answers (instead of handwritten). All completed forms should be returned either to the Abbot, Tanto, or their assistants, as indicated in the cover letter.*