Greetings to all in Jesus name, our Lord and Savior.

It is my great privilege to announce and invite all Elders and Pastors from the Trinity Prebytery to participate in the Workshop Training, **The Role and Responsibilities of Cumberland Presbyterian Elders,** hosted by the pastor of Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas.

We are all busy and caught up in many events throughout the year. This one is special and therefore needs our attention and participation.

It is time to renew, learn, and strengthen our denominational knowledge and spiritual vitality. The Workshop Training is designed so everyone can easily follow the facilitator with a brotherly activity.

While in San Antonio, you may join a few activities. Gain spiritual and brotherly friendship with one another and explore a beautiful downtown San Antonio, and, if you wish, you may stay for Sunday and be an active part of our regular Sunday Worship Service, which will be special and memorable with your presence.

It is up to you how you would like to join everything together. You may come on Friday, December 11, relax, visit San Antonio downtown, and stay at a hotel in the evening, ready for Saturday Workshop Training. Or you may want to come late on December 11, stay at a hotel of your choice. On Saturday, participate in the Workshop Training, then spend the afternoon and evening relaxing and exploring downtown. And on Sunday, worship with us together. If you want to stay and worship, I promise I will do everything possible to help you take an active part in our service.

Please respond to my brotherly invitation, supported by the Task Force on Theological and Social Concerns, at socpcoffice@gmail.com, by December 5, 2026. I only need your name, your church's name, your role at the church, and your cell phone number.

May HIS Master's teaching be bread and water for our souls and spirits, as we follow HIM. May HIS pierced-by-nails hands bless, keep, and guide you to meet together.

Rev. Dr. Mark M. Sontowski

Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church
San Antonio, Texas 78258

The Role and Responsibilities of Cumberland Presbyterian Elders

Training Workshop

Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca Zahrte, Mission Ministry Team

Dear Elders and Pastors of Trinity Presbytery:

You are cordially invited to attend the Training Workshop, ***The Role and Responsibilities of Cumberland Presbyterian Elders,*** hosted by Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This practical workshop will review the calling, authority, and responsibilities of elders and pastors and strengthen our shared ministry within the church and the communities we serve.

Rev. Rebecca Zahrte, representing the Mission Ministry Team of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, will facilitate the workshop. I highly recommend this training for ruling elders, former elders, active pastors, and all who wish to deepen their understanding of spiritual leadership and ministry partnership.

The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will last approximately five hours, including refreshment and lunch breaks, followed by time for questions and discussion. There is no registration fee; the host pastor will provide refreshments and lunch.

To prepare for the workshop, please obtain the following materials, recommended by Rev. Rebecca Zahrte from the CP Resource Center, by calling 901-276-4572, Ext. 252 or visiting the online store:

- Current Confession of Faith (if you do not already have a copy)
- CP Elder Training Workbook
- *Cumberland Presbyterian Elders* by Lynn Thomas

It is my honor to share that this Training Workshop is offered in response to the passionate encouragement of Elder Don Graski of Oak Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church at the Task Force on Theological and Social Concerns' most recent meeting. I deeply appreciate Elder Don Graski's dedication, steadfast service to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our discussion affirmed the need to encourage and support elders and pastors as they serve churches throughout the extensive territory of Trinity Presbytery. I am blessed to serve alongside Rev. Mark McNeese and Rev. Mary Kathryn Kirkpatrick, and I am grateful to each of them for their encouragement and support.

Before us lie many sacred tasks; when JESUS calls, our souls awaken beneath the light of His divine purpose – it is the beginning. When we take up His cross, follow His way, and answer with our lives, each step becomes an act of faithful surrender – it is obedience. When we dwell in prayer and lift grateful hearts to our Lord, He sanctifies us in the blessed way of humility and discipleship, until every breath becomes a prayer, every task an offering, and every deed a witness to His love. Then, we begin the way of humility and Jesus' discipleship.

I sincerely invite you to join us for this valuable time of learning, reflection, fellowship, and renewed commitment to faithful service. Your presence would be a blessing, and I warmly look forward to welcoming you.

Task Force on Theological and Social Concerns and
Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Because of Christ,
Rev. Dr. Mark M. Sontowski

The Role and Responsibilities of Cumberland Presbyterian Elders

Training Workshop
December 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church
20024 Crescent Oaks, San Antonio, Texas 78258
email: socpcoffice@gmail.com

Office 210-497-7974 Pastor 405-315-4895

1. Agenda Overview
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Biblical & Theological Foundation
4. Polity & Responsibilities
5. Break for Refreshments
6. Role in Practice
7. Dynamics of the Session Meeting
8. Skills Practice: Case Studies
9. Minister Elder Evaluation Form
10. Q & A and Local Application
11. Commitment and Closing Prayer