

not rejected Immersion as a proper mode.

The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., since its founding in 1706, has consistently practiced Aspersion, but has not held that this Mode or any one Mode is essential to the proper administering of the sacrament. The Mode of Immersion has been held to be perfectly valid, and any minister who has found it in any place or at any time desirable to administer Baptism in this way has been viewed as entirely within the bounds of propriety. In this matter, the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. has followed the classic Reformed tradition as witnessed to by John Calvin, who wrote:

Whether the person who is baptized be wholly immersed, or whether water be only poured or sprinkled upon him, is of no importance: churches ought to be left at liberty in this respect to act according to the differences of countries.

Institutes 4.15

From time to time, however, questions have been raised as to the Mode of Immersion being proper or expedient; and the General Assembly has consistently answered these questions with the Deliverance of General Assembly of 1834:

Question: Is it expedient in the present state of the Church, for a Presbyterian minister to baptize by immersion in any case?

Answer: The Confession of Faith, Chap. XXVIII, Sec. iii, teaches as follows, viz.: Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling of water upon the person. Your committee see no cause for adding anything to the doctrine of the Confession of this subject.

*Minutes of General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the U S. A., 1834, p 433*

When the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. met in Philadelphia in 1861, it adopted a Deliverance requiring ministers