

# **Integration of Relational Justice as a New Core Value for Social Welfare: Christianity and Social Work Education**

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The conceptualization of relational justice paradigm is critically important in shaping social conscience of the twenty-first century America and global societies where violence and depersonalization are threatening our civilization. This presentation focuses on the rationale for integrating relational justice paradigm in reconstructing the social work curricular from a Christian perspective. The first discussion will be on why Christian social work education should be distinguished from secular programs. The second portion will be focused on two major tasks of social work curricular development based on Christian social justice and *caritas* traditions; these include the educational task for establishing value domains and the developmental components of Christian social work (welfare) education (Lee, 1995; 2001). The Christian components of curricular development will be explicated in terms of the recovery of humanity, the development of relational paradigm, and the establishment of social justice. The third portion of presentation will be on the implications for the Loyola's interdisciplinary joint degree program of social work and divinity, and concrete recommendations will be made for future considerations (Lee, 2004). The findings from the first national symposium on dual degree programs of social work and divinity will be incorporated in this (Lee & O'Gorman, 2005).