

## GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

In the early 1960s, Gustavus Adolphus College began a recruitment program for northern urban and southern rural African American students. The recruitment project ran from 1962 to the early 1980s and enrolled hundreds of blacks. As president of Gustavus and founder of the recruitment campaign, Edgar M. Carlson initiated liberal projects that drew upon church support. He saw the Lutheran church as “a creative force” that offered humans all the “resources that are in God.” At the 1957 Lutheran World Federation, Carlson discussed his views on race and civil rights and first expressed his ideas on the role of a church-related college and social justice. I would like to organize some of Carlson’s thoughts on race relations and the mission of Christian universities from my Master’s thesis into a short note and reflect on its importance for understanding social justice in a Christian context. My talk would, primarily, be about Carlson’s ideas and recruitment program, but would include my thoughts on his thoughts and the directions that social justice in higher education, especially concerning race, has taken since the civil rights movement.

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