

## APPENDIX W

### LTS STATEMENT ON SPIRITUALITIES

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Spiritualities arise from God and our relationships with God as a people created in love. To paraphrase Karl Barth, all of creation is spiritual because we are God's Yes and Amen in the world. To affirm that is to further affirm that spiritualities are not simply about relationship with God but are also about our relationship with each other and creation. God who calls all creation into communion with God calls us into communality (i.e., communion in community) with others and with the created world. Thus, spiritualities are anchored in history, shaped by social location, and are influenced by place, traditions, culture, and language, as well as other contextual factors.

As such, one cannot speak of *a spirituality* but rather of *spiritualities*. For some, spirituality arises from Ignatian exercises; for others, it is prayer and other disciplines; for still others it is research and study. Some see spirituality rooted in the spaces of the everyday, while others associate spirituality with music and the arts. There are those for whom it is linked to the wisdom of the ancestors, while for others it is rooted in the sacredness of the land and all its inhabitants.

At LTS, we acknowledge these multiple experiences and expressions of spiritualities and recognize that there are many more. Theological education helps students critically engage spiritualities in all their diverse manifestations; thus, we contribute to the nature of our varied spiritualities by creating space and providing tools for individual and communal discernment and reflection. Through the exchange of ideas and sharing of traditions in our courses and Covenant Groups, we explore and expand the spiritual lives of our community and the impact for ministries through the lenses of all areas of our curriculum.