**White Religious Leaders and the Little Rock Crisis**

**Questions:**

1. Who are the sixteen men who signed this statement?
2. What do the sixteen men who signed this statement protest?
3. How do the sixteen men understand the ongoing crisis in Little Rock? Examine the seven points in the second paragraph. Each of them offers a clue on how the statement’s authors understood the events at Central High.
4. When was this statement made? See the timeline of the Little Rock Crisis (<https://www.nps.gov/chsc/learn/historyculture/timeline.htm>). How does this statement fit in the timeline of the 1957 events?
5. The handwritten note at the bottom reads: “It brought an advertisement from the White Citizens’ Council calling upon each of these men by name to integrate their congregations and thereby show their sincerity.” Research the role of white citizens’ councils in the crisis. Why do you think this council called the sixteen ministers to “integrate their congregations”? Why would a white citizens’ council make that appeal if their main goal was to oppose integration?
6. The comment about the white citizens’ councils calling the men who signed this statement to integrate their congregations suggest that the sixteen ministers were white. Do you think that sixteen is a big or small number? If you are not sure, research how many residents and how many white congregations Little Rock had in the 1950s.
7. Historians have concluded that most white religious leaders in Little Rock either opposed integration or stayed silent during the Little Rock Crisis and other civil rights struggles. Those who supported integration and voiced their support for the Little Rock Nine were a minority. What does it tell us about white Christian leaders in Little Rock at the time? What does it tell us about the sixteen men who signed this statement?