

# A Summit Experience

**In 2010, the people of Summit on 16th United Methodist Church were fearful.**

A stone's throw from both Ohio State's fraternity row and one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Columbus, their church was struggling. Members worried it would close. That's when they greeted their new pastor: April Blaine, a recent graduate of Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

One Sunday and one coffee-shop chat at a time, April cultivated trust, optimism and a determination to build Summit's congregation by serving its diverse community. Since her arrival, Summit's Sunday attendance is up 40 percent, and it's humming all week long.

At MTSO, we celebrate the ministries of consequence exemplified by April Blaine and her thousands of fellow alumni. Did we train April to lead the rebirth of Summit on 16th? No. She'll tell you her MTSO education equipped her to figure that out for herself.

**April Blaine**  
*M.Div. 2009*



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

**We prepare United Methodist leaders  
for ministries of lasting significance.**

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