Am I Required to be a Church Member?

1. Analogy of the body — Rom 12:4-6 (c.f. 1 Cor 12:12-27)
2. Visible-invisible church distinction
   A. Local vs universal — *NT epistles*; 1 Cor 14:23
   B. External vs internal — Heb 10:29; 1 Jn 2:19
3. Biblical implications
   A. Context of the epistles
   B. Belonging language — Ac 2:38-41, 26:17-18; 1 Cor 14:16-25; Ac 6:1
   C. Church discipline — 1 Cor 5:1-5
   D. Submitting to your leaders — 1 Pet 5:1-5; Heb 13:17
4. Critiques / challenges
   A. Function > form
   B. Not commanded or modeled in NT — Ac 8:26-39
   C. Bad experience with authoritarian leaders — 1 Pet 5:2-3
   D. “My relationship with Jesus is personal”
   E. Feels consumeristic / cliquey
   F. Isn’t regular attendance enough?
5. How else would you do it?
   A. Belonging is more than attending
   B. Prioritizing the church family
   C. Accountability
6. Practical benefits at SMPC