to adopt the Statement, “An Economy of Life: Re-imagining human progress for a flourishing world” (Appendix E);

(a) to commit itself and call on members, councils and agencies of the Uniting Church to:

(i) examine their lives as Christian disciples and communities that they may first of all serve God in the world through the love, compassion and generosity extended to all our neighbours;

(ii) examine their lives in order to identify where and when they behave in ways that deny human and ecological wholeness;

(iii) examine their lives in order to identify where and when monetary interests are placed ahead of human and ecological wellbeing;

(iv) identify, develop and implement alternative systems, structures and processes within the church that promote the practice of the economy of God and model a way of being in the world which promotes human wholeness, equity and ecological sustainability;

(v) challenge rampant consumerism and materialism as antithetical to what is necessary for a healthy and sustainable world and engage in public conversation about notions of sufficiency, abundance and the fullness of life;

(vi) challenge the commodification of people, the exercise of the profit-motive when it denies people without wealth access to essential services such as water and electricity, decent healthcare, education and other essential social services, and the recasting of education as merely a tool for producing productive human beings; and

(vii) advocate social and economic policies which

- are based on relational rather than mechanistic models
- support the growth of vibrant, safe and inclusive communities
- overcome poverty and injustice, addressing, as first priority, the needs of people who are most vulnerable
- dramatically and urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption
- support the research, development and implementation of clean and renewable energy, and
- prioritise peacemaking and seek to end militarism;

(b) to call on Australian governments to develop economic systems and structures which recognise that human and ecological flourishing require much more than the creation of wealth by ensuring that public policy seeks to address first and foremost the wellbeing of all people, especially those most vulnerable, and the environment, including

(i) regulatory reform of financial markets including systems of greater accountability;

(ii) the reduction of military spending and redirection of human and financial resources towards peacemaking;

(iii) the reform of the Australian tax and transfer system to make it a progressive tool for the equitable distribution of wealth, including taxing the most wealthy at an appropriate level and providing adequate income support for those people who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged;

(iv) the provision of universally accessible and affordable essential services such as water and electricity;
(v) workplace relations policies which ensure just working conditions – fair and sustainable wages and conditions, with adequate protections especially for low-skilled low-paid workers, job security and predictability of hours;

(vi) the recognition of the importance of shared (community) leisure time, reasonably priced and readily available childcare, and paid parental leave;

(vii) the increase and prioritisation of support for renewable energy over support for climate polluting industries; and

(viii) urban planning which is marked by a commitment to enhancing and protecting ‘the commons’ (public space including parks, art galleries, performance spaces and community centres), ensuring that people have access to workplaces close to home, public transport, schools, healthcare and social services, and an understanding of people’s inherent need of spaces and places of beauty and quiet;

c) to call on the Australian Government to work with other national governments and multilateral institutions to redevelop a global economic system that is regulated, transparent and accountable, for the wellbeing of people and the planet, and includes action that

(i) renews and strengthens global action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(ii) immediately and dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions through the development and use of renewable sources of energy, the reduction of our dependence on fossil fuels, and the saving of the world’s oceans and forests;

(iii) commits to ending the stranglehold of the military-industrial complex on the global economic system;

(iv) develops a practice of ethics and social justice that can guide financial markets in the world;

(v) regulates ‘the market’ and holds it accountable for unjust and exploitative practices, environmental damage, excesses of greed, the fostering of rampant and damaging consumerism;

(vi) creates a new international financial architecture developed under the aegis of the United Nations where broad participation of all countries and civil society can take place and which creates a process for the democratisation of all global finance and trade institutions;

(vii) encourages the development and sustainability of local economies through localised and sustainable systems of food production and consumption, fair trade, microfinance and incentives for investment in rural, regional and Indigenous communities; and

(viii) recognises the intrinsic value of cultural heritage (including sites, language and customs) as an expression of the wholeness of humanity and ensures its conservation, and

d) to call on the Australian Government to shift its rhetoric from the focus on continual and unlimited growth and redefine how Australia measures its progress as a nation in terms of wellbeing rather than monetary indices such as GDP, doing so in such a way that these measures eventually become primary and directive.